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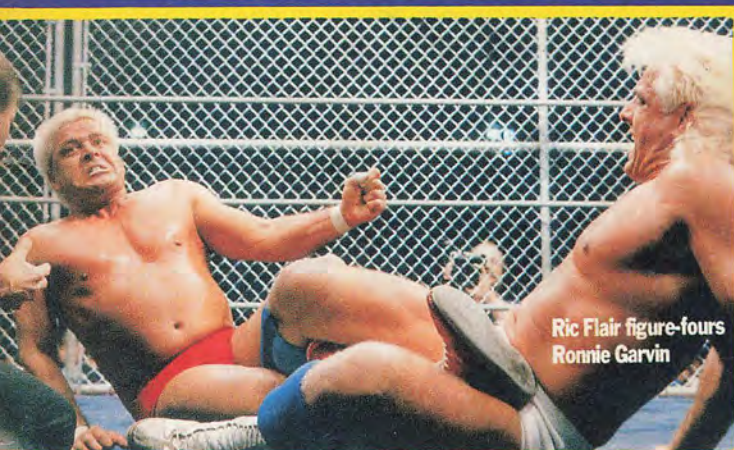
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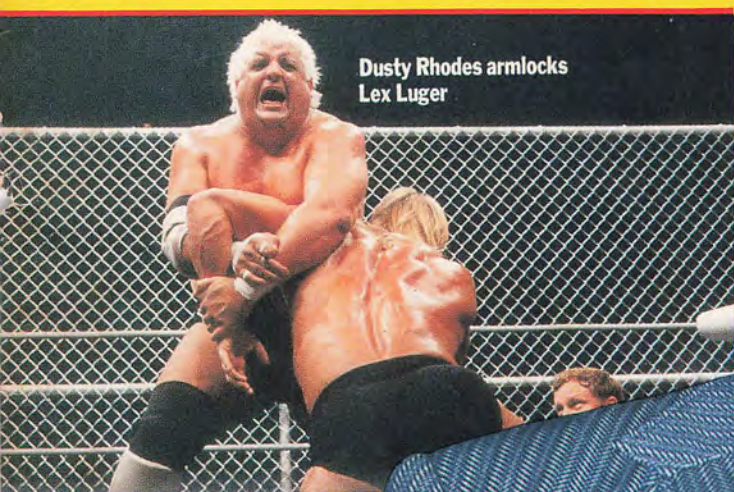
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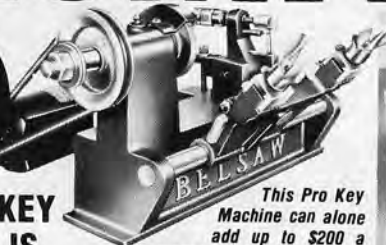
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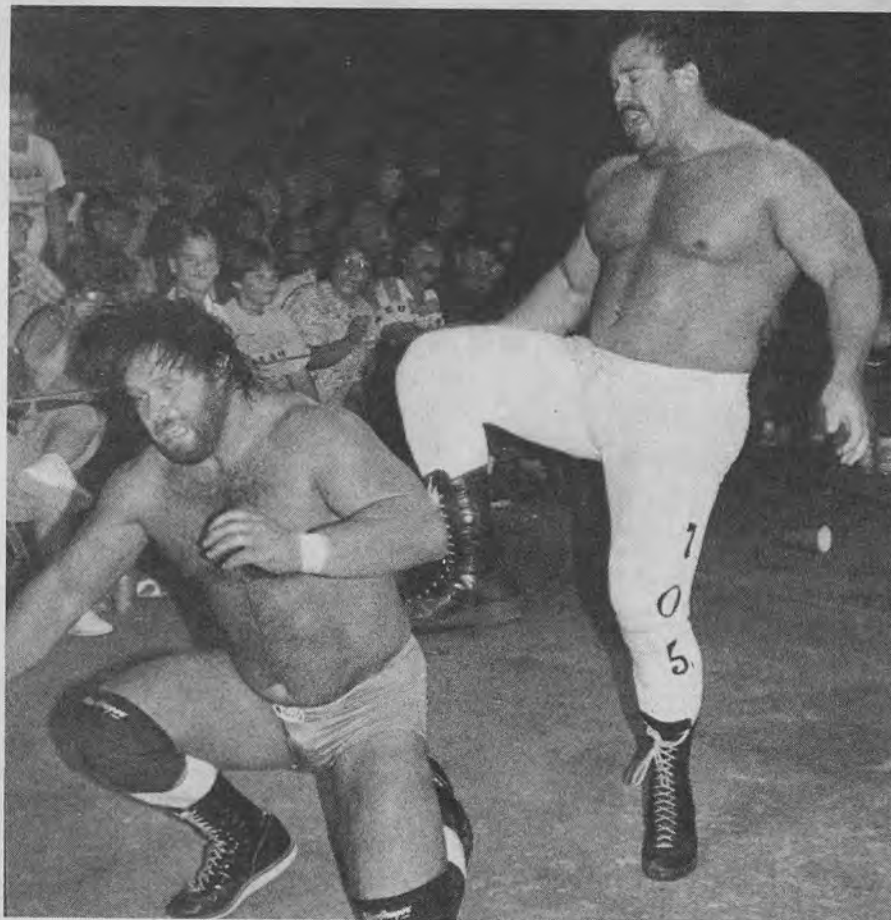
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ARCIDI FAN

You are to be congratulated for your best article and photos ever when you featured that marvelous, gorgeous, handsome, sexy, and fantastic hunk, Ted Arcidi ("Sports Review Interview: Ted Arcidi," January 1988). I was a Kerry Von Erich fan until I saw Arcidi wrestle. He is something else. No one in any wrestling association can match him for power, confidence, sexiness, talent, and intelligence. He will bring World Class to the top singlehandedly.

Arcidi is right when he asks if you've ever seen a body like his. No, there is *no one* who can compare to him. I hope your magazine will continue to feature him with more pictures and quotes. He is the shape of wrestling!

HEIDI IWANOVICH
Easton, PA

NOT-SO-NASTY BOYS

I was watching Memphis wrestling when I heard the name "The New Nasty Boys." So I kept on watching the program. When The New Nasty Boys, as they call themselves, came out, they were dressed just like The

Ted Arcidi plants a foot into the back of Matt Borne. Heidi Iwanovich says that no one can compare with the musclemán.

Road Warriors, except the Nasty Boys looked sloppy.

Well, they could never be like the Warriors, because the Warriors have muscles and The Nasty Boys are fat hogs who take up the whole ring. Hawk and Animal would kill them in the ring.

Just a week later, The Nasty Boys used the Warriors' finishing clothesline to beat an opponent. The Nasty Boys are no good. Do me a favor, Nasty Boys, give up.

DeWAYNE MERRIWEATHER
Clarksville, TN

WRONG CHOICE

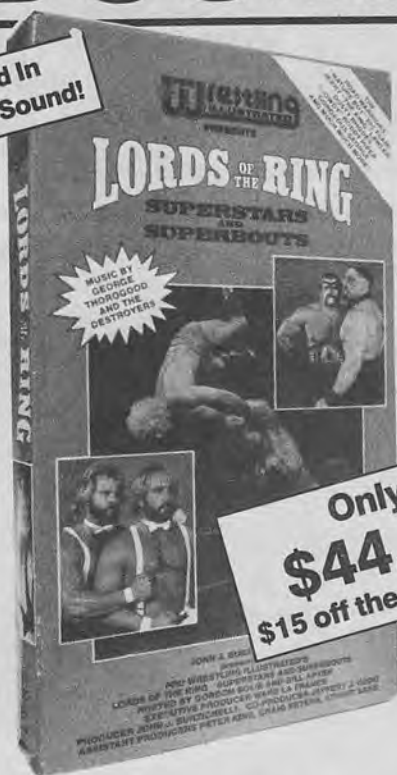
Your selection of Hulk Hogan over Ronnie Garvin for Wrestler of the Month in the January 1988 issue requires my attention. I think that [former] NWA champion Garvin deserves the honor.

Don't get me wrong. Hogan rescued Randy "Macho Man" Savage from a near-fatal beating at the hands of The

(Continued on page 54)

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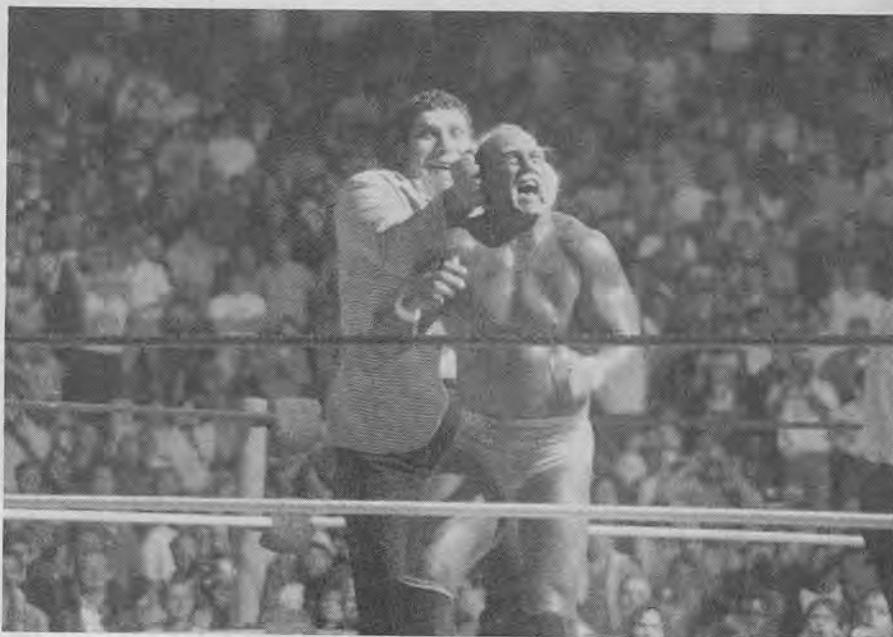
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THE TATTLER

LANDOVER, MD: WrestleMania IV is still three months away, but it's beginning to look like a rematch between Andre the Giant and WWF World champion Hulk Hogan will be the main event.

Andre and Hogan, who battled on opposite teams at the Survivor Series on Thanksgiving Day, had another confrontation during the taping of a *Saturday Night's Main Event* at the Capital Centre. After Hogan pinned King Kong Bundy, Andre ran into the ring wearing his street clothes and hit "The Hulkster"—with the World title belt!

Andre's attack proceeded virtually unchallenged until The British Bulldogs ran in to help Hogan. But Andre held them off, too, smashing



ANDRE THE GIANT & HULK HOGAN

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their heads together, tossing them—and several other wrestlers—out of the ring. Finally, Hacksaw Duggan ran into the ring with a 2x4 and hit Andre twice. But the 497-pound Giant didn't blink an eye. He surveyed the situation and walked out of the ring in disgust.

According to insiders, WWF officials are considering several main events for WrestleMania IV. Intercontinental champion The Honky Tonk Man challenged Hogan to a title vs. title match after the Survivor Series, but such a match appears unlikely. There's also a possibility that Hogan will team with Savage at WrestleMania IV.

(Continued on page 50)

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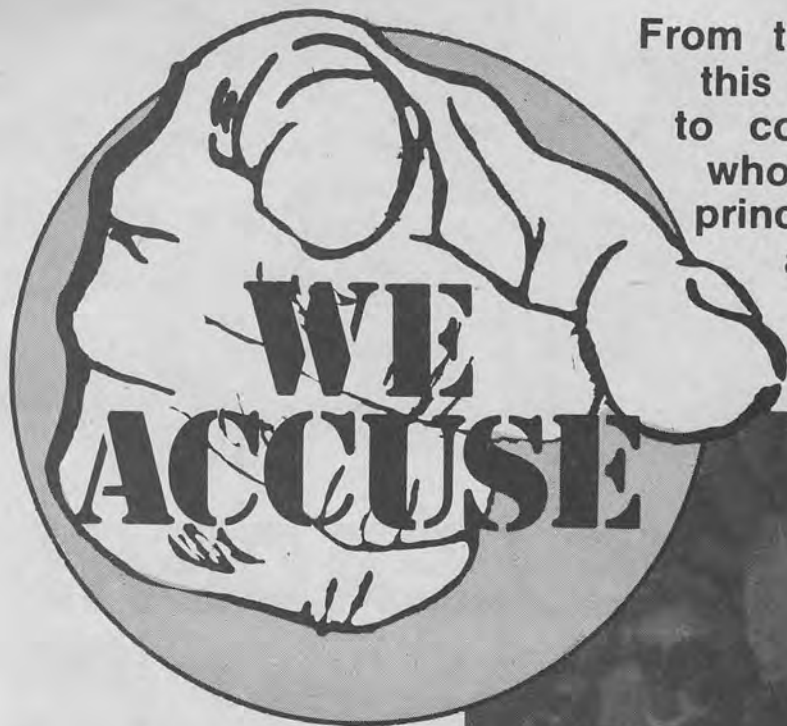
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From time to time, the editors of this magazine find it necessary to condemn those in wrestling who would subvert the basic principles of decency, integrity, and honesty. Without such truths, our sport will die

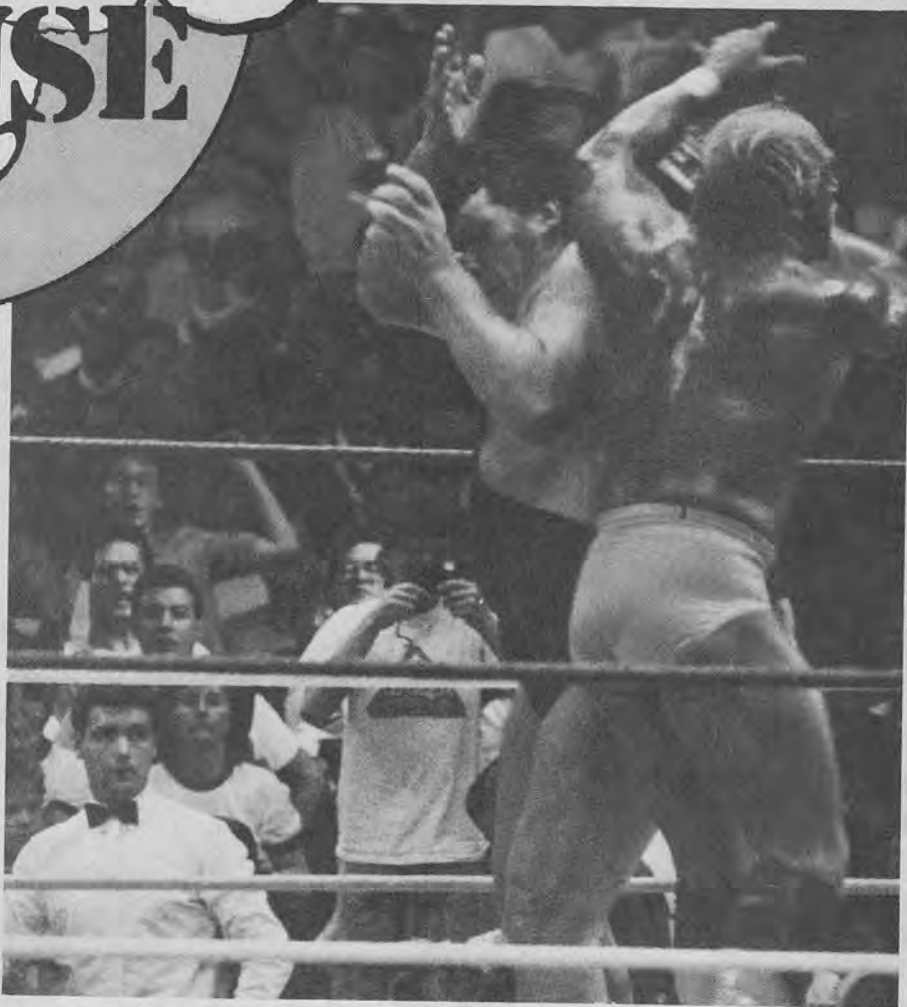
ALTHOUGH HE ONCE claimed to be the friend of World Wrestling Federation heavyweight champion Hulk Hogan, Intercontinental champion The Honky Tonk Man is about as different from "The Hulkster" as can be, in looks, actions, and attitude. About the only thing the two men have in common is that each holds a WWF title.

Now they have two things in common. Both men stand accused for the shameful behavior they showed in the Thanksgiving Day Survivor Series, behavior that has succeeded in disgracing each man's title reign.

The fans saw a lot of championship caliber wrestling that day, but little of it was done by Hogan or Honky Tonk. By their actions, each man revealed himself to be a selfish coward who would cheat both the fans and their fellow wrestlers.

The Honky Tonk Man took a stroll that would have made Roberto Duran proud. Rather than face Randy Savage, Rick Steamboat, and Jake Roberts in the final minutes of his match, Honky Tonk turned and walked out of the ring.

Hulk Hogan, who earlier had been counted out of his match, came back to sneak-attack Andre the Giant while Andre was attempting to celebrate his



Hulk Hogan attacks Andre the Giant following Andre's victory in the final match of the Survivor Series. Hogan disgraced himself and the WWF World championship belt with his uncharacteristic behavior.

well-deserved victory.

Hardly exemplary behavior from one man who claims to be the greatest Intercontinental champion of all time and another who claims to embody the highest ideals of the American dream.

Disqualifications, countouts, and outside interference have been the disgraceful hallmarks of Honky Tonk's six-month title reign. But the tempestuous Tennessean hit a new low when he decided not to risk injury at the hands of three men he has gone out of his

way in the past to injure and humiliate.

It may have been the smart thing to do. After all, Honky Tonk insured that he would avoid injury and live to defend his title another day. But Honky Tonk's situation was not unique: Bam Bam Bigelow fought heroically against King Kong Bundy, One Man Gang, and Andre the Giant, eliminating the first two before he succumbed to Andre and exhaustion; The Island-

(Continued on page 52)

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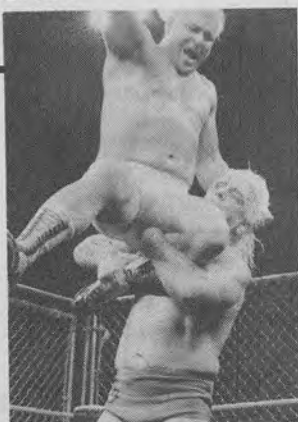
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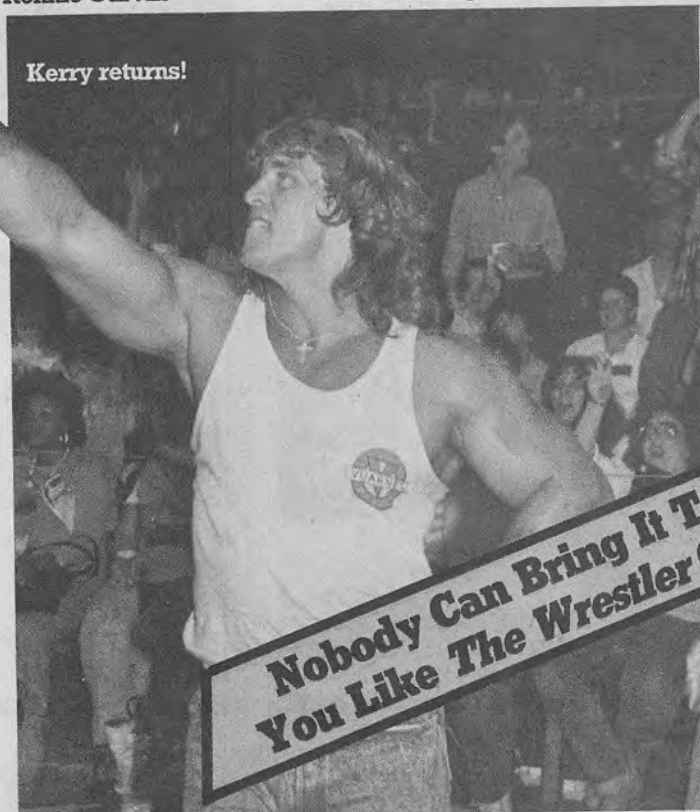
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The Inquiring Reporter

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THE QUESTION:

"What was the most exciting part of the WWF, NWA, and AWA Thanksgiving cards?"

THE ANSWERS:

Rich Wetter, Rocky Point, NY: "It had to be when Hulk Hogan ran into the ring and attacked Andre the Giant after the Survivor Series! I didn't think Hogan could sink that low, but then again, I don't blame him after all the troubles the Giant has been causing him of late. Remember, Andre has



Although Hulk Hogan's attack on Andre the Giant at the Survivor Series was unsportsmanlike, Rich Wetter feels that "The Hulkster" had a reason to do what he did.



Dusty Rhodes pins Lex Luger to win the U.S. championship. According to Jerry Dunkel, Rhodes' upset victory at Starrcade was the highlight of the Thanksgiving shows.

been coming out and interfering in a lot of Hogan's matches. I'm sure a lot of fans were surprised at Hogan's unsportsmanlike behavior, but there were some good reasons for it."

Jerry Dunkel, Peoria, FL: "The best part of Starrcade was when Dusty Rhodes finally won the U.S. title from Lex Luger. Both guys were knocked out, and then that spudhead J.J. Dillon went ahead and threw in a chair. Luger recovered and got to it first, but just as he was bending over to get it, 'Big Dust' caught up to Luger and turned it into a DDT—with Luger

landing on the chair! I must admit, Dusty sure picked the right move for the situation. Maybe that'll teach Luger a lesson he'll never forget!"

Victor Siclari, Alexandria, VA: "Well, there were a lot of high points in the Survivor Series, a lot more than you'll see at the usual live show. But the thing that really took my breath away was when Jim Brunzell was about to slam Jim Neidhart and Tama dropkicked Neidhart so that 'The Anvil' would fall over on Brunzell. Sure it was illegal, but I had to admit it was a

(Continued on page 48)

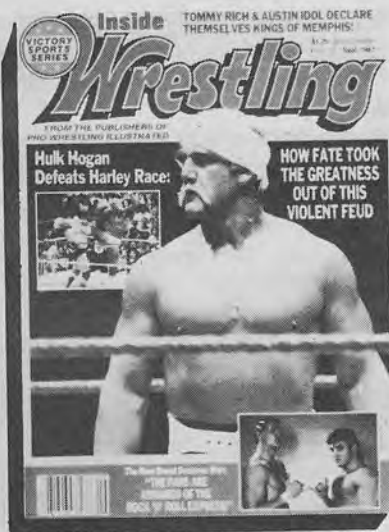
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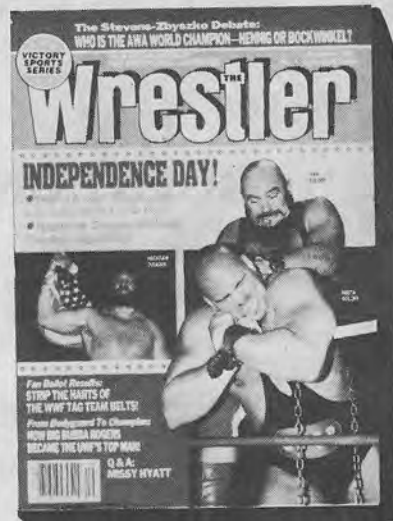
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TOP WRESTLER YOUR QUESTION

Do you have a question you want answered by 10 of wrestling's top stars? Each month, *Sports Review Wrestling* will publish a fan's "Question of the Month," which will be answered by the sport's top superstars. If you have a question you would like to see answered, send it to:

ASK THE STARS
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THE "QUESTION OF THE MONTH" IS:

**"What advice
would you give
an aspiring
professional
wrestler?"**

**Submitted by:
John Barnett
Crowell, TX**



BARRY WINDHAM

"First of all, you should know that it's a tough life. There's a lot of traveling. If you're a homebody, forget about becoming a wrestler. Then there's the constant battering your body takes night after night. With that in mind, I would tell any young kid coming into the sport that for every moment of elation, there are a lot of hours of hard work and grief."



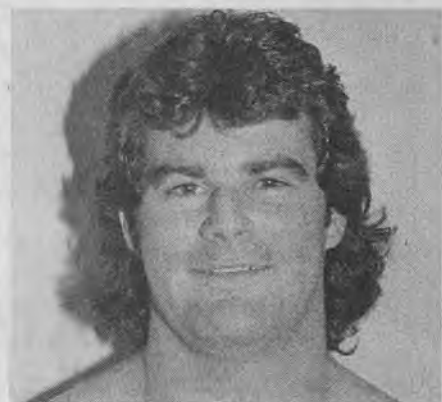
DUSTY RHODES

"Stay true to yourself, stay true to your goals, stay true to what you believe in, that's what it is. You could have all the talent in the world, daddy, but you ain't goin' nowhere unless you feel in your heart that you can win. That's what kept Dusty Rhodes, 'The American Dream,' on top for so long. Some of the biggest, baddest men don't make it 'cause they don't feel that way."



JIM CORNETTE

"Advice? Son, if you want my advice you're gonna have to pay for it. Do you realize how many people are willing to pay good money for my pearls of wisdom? I save my advice for my men, but I will tell you this: Forget it! Why invest all that time and energy when you're gonna end up getting beat up and humiliated by The Midnight Express or Big Bubba Rogers? Think about it."



BRIAN ADIAS

"Be careful about who you put your trust in, that's the most important thing I can tell anybody. I trusted the Von Erichs like family, and they treated me like dirt. Now I take total responsibility for all my actions. I'm also a better wrestler, which is no coincidence, either. It took me a while to learn all this, but now it's all coming together."

RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH



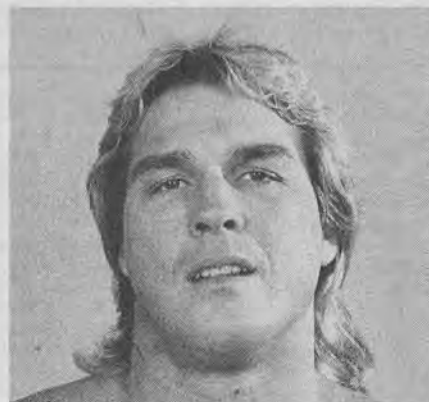
JERRY LAWLER

"I broke into wrestling without any amateur experience, but I wouldn't advise anyone else to travel the same route. Wrestle in college, high school, even younger, and you'll be well-equipped to take on the pros. My way worked for me, but you have to find your own way. It won't work if you blatantly try to copy somebody else. Above all, stick with the basics and you may succeed."



CURT HENNIG

"Don't listen to people who tell you that playing straight by the rules is the only way to do things. If you want to get ahead in this sport, you have to be willing to do what you think is right, whether the referee likes it or not. The biggest mistake I made was not doing things like my father did. From the moment I started listening to him, I became a winner."



TERRY TAYLOR

"I could give you the old song-and-dance about how you should be kind and decent and patient, but that's not my style anymore. The old Terry Taylor lived that way, and look where it got him: nowhere. One thing's for sure: Whatever you do, don't listen to the fans. They'll try to give you a lot of bull about how you owe them something. You don't owe the slobs a thing!"



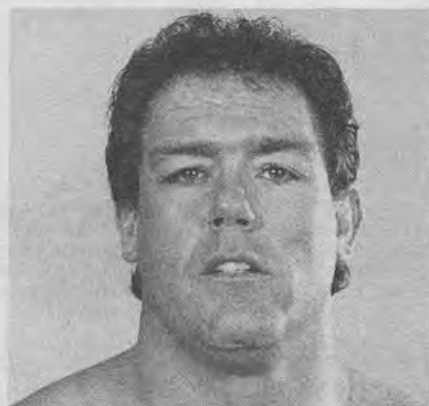
DOUG FURNAS

"I found that some people would try to discourage me by saying how tough it is to break into wrestling and how tough it is to make it big. Those are the people you can't listen to. If you want to be a wrestler, go for it. Forget the odds; they never look good. Keep focused on your goal and you'll do all right. A lot of so-called 'experts' said I wouldn't make it, but I'm doing okay."



SHAUN SIMPSON

"You'll get off to a good start if you have a lot of support from your family. My father is a promoter in South Africa, so my brother Steve and I learned quite a lot from him years before we became wrestlers. I know I wouldn't be as good as I am today if it wasn't for their help. But as much as they helped me, I find that I must look within myself in order to be properly motivated."



TULLY BLANCHARD

"Look, I know that if some wrestler tried to give me any advice when I was just starting out, I'd have punched him in the nose. When you start listening to anything and everything that everybody says, you're going nowhere. If you're *really* serious about being a wrestler, listen to your own advice and nobody else's. If your head is empty, get out before you get hurt."



THE Wrestler

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June 1975/Stories include: Andre, Muraco, Funk, Lawler.

August 1975/Stories include: Sammartino, Patterson, Stasiak, Rivera.

December 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, McDaniel, Blackjacks.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Sammartino, Rhodes, Valentine.

July 1976/Stories include: Andre, Wrestling II, Inoki, Von Erich.

November 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Valentine, Mosca.

December 1976/Stories include: Von Erich, Mulligan, Brody, Funk.

January 1977/Stories include: Brody, Andre, Wrestling II, Mascaras.

February 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Jones, Funk, Von Raschke.

April 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Funk, Flair, Bockwinkel.

May 1977/Stories include: Mascaras, Valiants, Andersons, Sammartino.

June 1977/Stories include: Patera, Putski, Hernandez, McDaniel.

July 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Rocca, Mascaras.

October 1977/Stories include: Rhodes, Sammartino, Flair, Snuka.

November 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Slater, Mascaras, Snuka.

September 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Grahams, Andre, Mascaras.

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December 1978/Stories include: Brisco, Mulligan, Andre, Blanchard.

February 1979/Stories include: Ladd, Flair, Idol, Heenan.

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Brody, Valiants, Race.

July 1979/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Sammartino, Andre.

August 1979/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Patera, Stevens, Superstar.

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October 1979/Stories include: Flair, Valentine, Santana, Muraco.

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March 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Andre.

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October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

May 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Backlund, Santana, Rich.

June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.

July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

March 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.

April 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Rude, Luger, Hogan, Magnum T.A.

May 1986/Stories include: Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.

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July 1986/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.

August 1986/Stories include: Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.

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October 1986/Stories include: Nikita-Magnum, Nord, Bruno, Kerry, Windham.

November 1986/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan-Orndorff, Von Erich.

December 1986/Stories include: Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.

January 1987/Stories include: Heenan, Garvins, DiBiase, Borrie & Sawyer.

February 1987/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.

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May 1987/Stories include: Flair-Nikita, Andre-Hogan, UWF, Windham, Hennig.

June 1987/Stories include: Flair-Windham, Can-Ams, Rhodes-Murdoch.

July 1987/Stories include: Cornette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.

August 1987/Stories include: Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.

September 1987/Stories include: Koloffs, Harts, Duggan, Hennig, Hart.

October 1987/Stories include: Savage-Honky Tonk, Horsemen, Patera, Kerry.

November 1987/Stories include: Williams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.

December 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Windham, Lawler, Flair, Beefcake.

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August 1975/Stories include: Valentine, Garea, Rhodes, Sammartino.

September 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Funk, Valiants, Gagne.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Strongbow, Lewin, Brazil.

March 1976/Stories include: Ladd, Funk, Sheik, Robinson.

April 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Albano, Flair, Brisco.

August 1976/Stories include: Funks, Mascaras, Sammartino, Putski.

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August 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Mascaras, Lawler.

September 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Mascaras, Brisco.

October 1977/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes, Backlund, Mulligan.

November 1977/Stories include: Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras, Gagne.

December 1977/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Johnson, Maivia.

March 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Valentine, Backlund, Bockwinkel.

April 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Steamboat, Bruiser.

August 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Andre, Hansen.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Rhodes, McDaniel.

November 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Backlund, Flair, Steamboat.

December 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Bravo.

January 1979/Stories include: Sammartino, Mulligan, Rhodes, Backlund.

February 1979/Stories include: Race, Sammartino, Steamboat, Ladd.

April 1979/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Backlund, Jones.

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Rhodes, Backlund, Heenan.

June 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Superstar, Bockwinkel, Backlund.

July 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Ladd, Valiant, Brower.

August 1979/Stories include: Flair, Garvin, Race, Sammartino.

September 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Mascaras, Strongbow, Garvin.

February 1980/Stories include: Patera, Snuka, Santana, Albano.

April 1980/Stories include: Hogan, Rich, Backlund, Mascaras.

May 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Bockwinkel.

June 1980/Stories include: Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.

July 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Von Erich, Superstar, Blasse.

August 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Wrestling II, Baker, Koloff.

September 1980/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.

November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.

January 1981/Stories include: Snuka, Morales, Slater.

February 1981/Stories include: Backlund, DiBiase, Bravo, Anderson.

April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.

May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.

June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.

September 1981/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.

January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humberdink.

February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.

March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.

April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.

June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.

July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.

August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.

September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.

October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.

December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.

February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.

March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.

April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.

May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.

June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.

July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.

August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.

September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.

October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.

November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.

December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.

April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.

May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.

June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.

July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.

August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.

September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.

October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.

November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.

December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.

January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.

February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.

March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.

May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.

June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.

July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.

August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.

September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.

November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.

December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.

January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.

February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.

March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.

April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.

May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Roll.

June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.

July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.

August 1986/Stories include: Wrestlemania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.

September 1986/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.

October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Luger, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.

November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.

December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.

February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.

March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.

April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.

May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.

June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.

July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.

August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.

September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.

October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.

November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.

December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.

January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.

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WRESTLER OF THE MONTH

KERRY VON ERICH

THE EDITORS OF *Sports Review Wrestling* anticipated a difficult task when it came time to pick this issue's "Wrestler of the Month." A veritable feast of wrestling cards was offered on Thanksgiving, including the NWA's Starrcade, the WWF's inaugural Survivor Series, plus big shows in the AWA, World Class, and Continental areas.

Nearly every major star in the sport was in action on Thanksgiving Day, and many of them performed with distinction: Ric Flair won the NWA World title; Dusty Rhodes won the U.S. title; Nikita Koloff won the unified NWA/UWF TV belt; Andre the Giant was the sole survivor in the main event of the Survivor Series; Kevin Von Erich won a non-title Texas death match against WCCW champion Al Perez.

But, as it turned out, picking a winner wasn't difficult at all. Oddly enough, it wasn't any of these men.

Years from now, when people look back on November 1987, the event that will stand out is Kerry Von Erich's miraculous return to professional wrestling. Kerry, who was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident nearly 17 months earlier, returned to the ring on November 21 in Miami Beach and made his Dallas homecoming on Thanksgiving Day. Incredibly, the day before the Dallas match, Kerry teamed with his brother Kevin to win the World Class tag team championship from Brian Adias and Frank Lancaster.

"I remember back in June 1986 when we first heard about the accident," said Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks. "From the very start, Kerry insisted that he'd come back to wrestle. I thought he was out of his mind. The man came within an inch of dying, was practically a cripple, and he was claiming he'd come back. Preposterous! But he did it."

"My reaction exactly," added Assistant Editor Dave Rosenbaum. "I covered the story from the start, and the impression I got was that Kerry would be on crutches for the rest of his life. I talked to the doctors and the police at the scene of the accident, and they all said Kerry was lucky he wasn't killed. If he hadn't been wearing a wetsuit [he had been water-skiing earlier in the day], the injuries would have been more serious."

"The Modern-Day Warrior," a former NWA World champion, wasn't supposed to return until Thanksgiving, but demanded that World Class promoters include him on the "Von Erichs Over America" tour stop in Miami Beach. Kerry teamed with Kevin to defeat Adias and The Iron Sheik when Kevin leveled Sheik with a spectacular dropkick while Kerry pinned Adias.

Earlier in the day, the mayor of nearby Pembroke Pines, Florida, gave Kerry and Kevin the key to the city for their work against drug abuse. "The entire day was

unforgettable," said Kerry. "It all reaffirmed in my mind that there's nothing I'd rather do than be a professional wrestler."

Part II of Kerry's comeback week took place in Shreveport, Louisiana, when Kerry and Kevin won the tag belts from Adias and Lancaster. The champions were heavy favorites going into the match because Kerry and Kevin still had not perfected their timing. "I'll be the first to admit that we were still trying to get our act together," said Kevin. "I don't think we could've beaten them if we weren't brothers. We just naturally click."

Part III—and the most emotional part of the comeback—came the following evening in Dallas' Reunion Arena. This was a special moment for Kerry because he feels particularly close to his Dallas fans. "You can wrestle all around the world in the most exotic countries," said Kerry, "and that's all very exciting, but there's nothing like doing it for your hometown fans. Those are the people that really love you."

Kerry faced a double challenge in Dallas. Before he wrestled Adias, he had to take on The Thing, a vicious brawler on a mission to kill. The Thing entered the ring with his handler, Killer Brooks, and Brooks' manager, Percy Pringle. Kerry wasn't intimidated. He knocked Brooks out of the ring, slugged The Thing, and discus-punched Pringle. Kerry then disposed of The Thing by whipping him with The Thing's own chain and applying the iron claw to his stomach for the pin.

The comeback wasn't official, however, until Kerry walked to the ring for his showdown with Adias. The crowd gave him a standing ovation and Kerry responded by making short work of Adias. He used a discus punch to floor Adias before covering him for the pin. Kerry returned to the dressing room and was given another ovation.

"Adias was one of the reasons I wanted to come back so badly," said Kerry. "After the way he turned his back on my family, I wasn't going to let him get away with it, but I think Kevin and I taught him a lesson this week. First we took his title away, then I gave him and his buddies a beating. That made all of the pain I went through worthwhile."

Kerry's comeback still isn't complete. He must prove that his injured body can sustain the rigors of wrestling night after night. Doctors have warned that Kerry is still in danger of suffering a serious, career-threatening injury. But he's already overcome so much. He's an inspiration to all who follow wrestling.

There's never been a more worthy "Wrestler of the Month." □

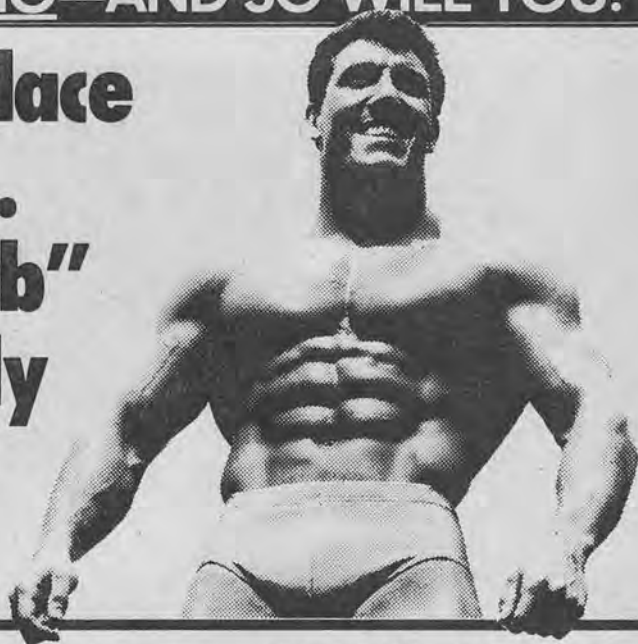
Kerry Von Erich completed one of the greatest comebacks in wrestling history on November 21 when he returned to the ring for the first time in 17 months.



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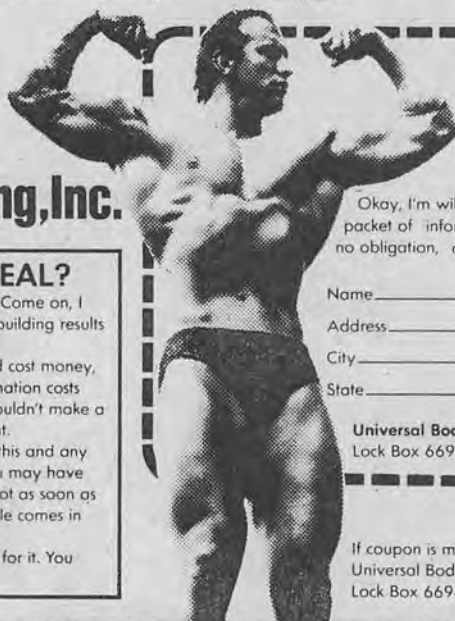
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Wrestling



Steve Williams

TOP 10

- 1 HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
WWF World champion
- 2 RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
NWA World champion
- 3 NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
NWA/UWF TV champion
- 4 DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
U.S. heavyweight champion
- 5 RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
No. 1 contender to WWF I-C title
- 6 BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
Western States champion
- 7 STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Norman, OK
UWF heavyweight champion
- 8 LEX LUGER**
231, Montreal, Quebec
No. 1 contender to U.S. title
- 9 CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
No. 1 contender AWA World title
- 10 AL PEREZ**
238, Tampa, FL
World Class heavyweight champion

TAG TEAMS

- 1 THE ROAD WARRIORS**
Combined weight: 567 pounds
No. 1 contenders to NWA tag team title
- 2 TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**
Combined weight: 484 pounds
NWA World tag team champions
- 3 RICK MARTEL & TITO SANTANA**
Combined weight: 489 pounds
WWF World tag team champions
- 4 BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE**
Combined weight: 453 pounds
U.S. tag team champions
- 5 THE ISLANDERS**
Combined weight: 472 pounds
No. 3 contenders to WWF tag team title
- 6 BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART**
Combined weight: 515 pounds
No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title
- 7 THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
Combined weight: 453 pounds
No. 1 contenders to U.S. tag team title
- 8 THE SHEEPHERDERS**
Combined weight: 542 pounds
UWF tag team champions
- 9 DENNIS CONDREY & RANDY ROSE**
Combined weight: 461 pounds
AWA World tag team champions
- 10 KERRY & KEVIN VON ERICH**
Combined weight: 495 pounds
World Class tag team champions

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR

243, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 2—LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 3—NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 4—BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 5—RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 6—STING**
270, parts unknown
- 7—TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 8—MIKE ROTUNDO**
245, Syracuse, NY
- 9—LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 10—TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL

AWA

World Champion:
CURT HENNIG

235, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN
- 2—WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX
- 3—JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
- 4—JERRY BLACKWELL**
474, Stone Mountain, GA
- 5—ADRIAN ADONIS**
312, New York, NY
- 6—KEVIN KELLY**
271, Oakland, CA
- 7—D.J. PETERSON**
245, St. Joseph, MO
- 8—JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 9—J.T. SOUTHERN**
254, Asbury Park, NJ
- 10—NICK KINISKI**
228, Vancouver, BC

WWF

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN

302, Venice Beach, CA

- 1—THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
- 2—RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 3—TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
- 4—BAM BAM BIGELOW**
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
- 5—ONE MAN GANG**
468, Chicago, IL
- 6—ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
- 7—JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 8—RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
- 9—HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 10—RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN

UWF

UWF Champion:
STEVE WILLIAMS

265, Norman, OK

- 1—BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 2—LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 3—TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 4—RICK STEINER**
248, Detroit, MI
- 5—STING**
270, parts unknown
- 6—EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN
- 7—RON SIMMONS**
260, Perry, GA
- 8—BIG BUBBA ROGERS**
348, Louisville, KY
- 9—BLACK BART**
261, Pampa, TX
- 10—SHANE DOUGLAS**
223, Pittsburgh, PA

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

MOST POPULAR

- 1 HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2 RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
- 3 DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
- 4 NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
- 5 BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
- 6 JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
Last month: unrated
- 7 STING**
270, parts unknown
Last month: unrated
- 8 CHRIS ADAMS**
228, Stratford, England
Last month: unrated
- 9 JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
Last month: No. 10 Most Popular
- 10 KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
Last month: unrated

MOST HATED

- 1 ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
Last month: unrated
- 2 THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
- 3 RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
- 4 TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
- 5 TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated
- 6 LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated
- 7 CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
- 8 ONE MAN GANG**
468, Chicago, IL
Last month: unrated
- 9 AL PEREZ**
238, Tampa, FL
Last month: unrated
- 10 TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated

For period ended December 7, 1987

WORLD CHAMP.

U.S. Champion:
DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX

- 1—LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 2—NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 3—RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 4—TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 5—RON SIMMONS**
260, Perry, GA
- 6—ARN ANDERSON**
249, Minneapolis, MN
- 7—KEVIN SULLIVAN**
252, Boston, MA
- 8—JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL
- 9—MIGHTY WILBUR**
340, Hayward, CA
- 10—IVAN KOLOFF**
240, Moscow, Russia

WORLD CLASS

World Class Champion:
AL PEREZ
238, Tampa, FL

- 1—KEVIN VON ERICH**
235, Denton, TX
- 2—MATT BORNE**
235, Portland, OR
- 3—CHRIS ADAMS**
228, Stratford, England
- 4—KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
- 5—SHAUN SIMPSON**
200, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 6—BRIAN ADIAS**
238, Denton, TX
- 7—TONY ATLAS**
247, Roanoke, VA
- 8—ERIC EMBRY**
225, Lexington, KY
- 9—THE IRON SHEIK**
262, Teheran, Iran
- 10—MIL MASCARAS**
245, Mexico City, Mexico

STAMPEDE

North American Champion:
OWEN HART
223, Calgary, Alberta

- 1—GAMA SINGH**
220, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2—JASON THE TERRIBLE**
270, parts unknown
- 3—COL. KIRCHNER**
260, Ft. Bragg, NC
- 4—MAKIAN SINGH**
380, Saginaw, MI
- 5—BRIAN PILLMAN**
226, Cincinnati, OH
- 6—STEVE DISALVO**
298, Boston, MA
- 7—HIRO HASE**
226, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 8—PHIL LAFLEUR**
245, Montreal, Quebec
- 9—BRUCE HART**
211, Calgary, Alberta
- 10—ZODIAK**
230, Salem, MA

MID-SOUTHERN

CWA Champion:
JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN

- 1—JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 2—MANNY FERNANDEZ**
245, El Paso, TX
- 3—JIMMY JACK FUNK**
243, Portland, OR
- 4—BOBBY JAGGERS**
275, Dunlap, KS
- 5—BILL DUNDEE**
214, Melbourne, Australia
- 6—STEVE KEIRN**
238, Tampa, FL
- 7—CARL FERGIE**
230, Memphis, TN
- 8—AUSTIN IDOL**
240, Las Vegas, NV
- 9—HECTOR GUERRERO**
218, Mexico City, Mexico
- 10—DON BASS**
230, Memphis, TN

CONTINENTAL

Continental Champion:
DUTCH MANTEL
224, Oil Trough, TX

- 1—DAN DAVIS**
238, Nashville, TN
- 2—WENDELL COOLEY**
220, Milton, FL
- 3—DOUG FURNAS**
265, Commerce, OK
- 4—TOM PRITCHARD**
220, Houston, TX
- 5—THE BULLET**
234, parts unknown
- 6—TONY ANTHONY**
235, Bucksnorth, TN
- 7—SUPERSTAR BUBBA**
407, San Antonio, TX
- 8—ROBERT FULLER**
238, Dyresburg, TN
- 9—BUDDY LANDELL**
236, Los Angeles, CA
- 10—JIMMY GOLDEN**
235, Montgomery, AL

CALIFORNIA

ACCW Champion:
JACK ARMSTRONG
235, Hollywood, CA

- 1—PETER MAIVIA JR.**
215, Western Samoa
- 2—KAMALAMALA**
480, parts unknown
- 3—PROF. TANAKA**
265, Tokyo, Japan
- 4—MERCENARY I**
242, parts unknown
- 5—JAY STRONGBOW JR.**
223, Pawhuska, OK
- 6—TONY ROCCO**
236, Rome, Italy
- 7—GOLIATH**
235, Mexico City, Mexico
- 8—MANDO GUERRERO**
225, Mexico City, Mexico
- 9—MERCENARY II**
240, parts unknown
- 10—VICTOR RIVERA**
242, Philadelphia, PA

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Somebody out there doesn't like us. Or at least doesn't agree with us. We've been getting a lot of mail lately, and not much of it has been favorable.

Let's start things off with a letter from Christopher McGlothlin of Radford, Virginia: "I have a suggestion that would greatly improve the quality of the ratings. The 'Most Popular' and 'Most Hated' categories should be dropped because they are meaningless. It doesn't matter how popular or hated a wrestler is. **Hulk Hogan** and **George Steele** are both loved while **Ric Flair** and **Danny Davis** are



George Steele

both hated, but look at the difference in their levels of success. Flair and other 'hated' wrestlers enjoy healthy fan followings. The ratings are also far too biased toward the NWA and WWF, and they receive far too much coverage as it is. Dropping those categories would open up space that could be used to rate two smaller promotions. Some of the best wrestling today takes place in smaller organizations. Rating those areas would show a much better picture of what's going on in the sport."

Now on to more letters. "It's always fascinating to me how your magazine always manages to get in a little dig at Hulk Hogan no matter what," writes Mike Facciani of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. "Even though you rated 'The Hulkster' number one this month [January 1988], it seems to be with some reluctance, and I don't understand it."

"What the heck do you mean you should 'start the ratings at number two this month because nobody deserves to be number one?' Hogan damn well deserves it, because whether you like it or not he is the greatest wrestler in the sport! Face it, nobody can beat him, not **Andre the Giant**, **Flair**, **Randy Savage**, **Luger**, or anyone else you can name."

"Besides, it's far more impressive for a champion to win a title and keep it than it is to lose a title and regain it like Flair has done. Hogan stands so far above everyone else in wrestling, I don't know how you could even consider someone else for the top spot in the Top 10. But the way your crazy ratings go sometimes, and considering your partiality toward the NWA, I'm surprised you didn't rank Flair number one even *without* the World title."

Strong words, but Mike wasn't in the minority. "When you guys make up the ratings," writes Earle Brown of Midtown, New York, "look at the way titles change hands and stop giving top billing to a guy who cheats, uses technicalities, and needs the help of three or four other wrestlers to subdue opponents or future opponents. Hogan doesn't use any of these means."

"Please give the fans your reasoning for your obvious bias against Hulk Hogan and favoritism toward Flair," writes Phil Ewan of Newburgh, New York. "Your magazine seems to totally disregard Flair's tarnished victories and the dishonor he brings to his title defenses."

We need an explanation from you. What lock does Flair have on you guys? Does he own part of the magazine? Maybe he slips you guys some good ol' cash! The Hogan fans want an explanation."

You asked for an explanation, so you'll get it. The Hogan fans can be awfully blind sometimes. They'll disregard that he defends the belt only three or four times a month. Flair has held the NWA World title for most of the past six years. He defends the belt more times in one month than Hogan does in several. And although Flair has a tendency to cheat, he's a fine scientific wrestler, perhaps the finest today—don't discount the "inherent skill" factor in the ratings criteria, either.

Flair regained the belt from **Ronnie Garvin** at Starrcade '87 *without* cheating. Flair fought hard and fair and showed off his vast skills. And although he didn't return to the top spot with his victory—Hogan is still number one—he'll be there soon if he maintains a heavy schedule of title defenses.

Who's number one? For now, **The Road Warriors** own the top spot in the tag team ratings. **Hawk** and **Animal**'s won-lost record for November was nearly flawless, as it always is. Their quality of opposition was top-notch. And there's no denying the incredible skills of "The Legion of Doom." But they were unable to win the NWA World tag team belts from **Tully Blanchard** and **Arn Anderson** at Starrcade '87—even though they appeared to have the pin before getting disqualified in a controversial decision—leading many to feel they no longer deserved to be rated number one. And **Strike Force**, the WWF World tag champs, are also impressing people with their high-flying style and willingness to take on all comers. Undoubtedly, the Warriors are on shaky ground; in fact, several editors gave their first-place votes this month to Anderson and Blanchard. The majority is still with the Warriors, but if they don't win a major title soon they could be in trouble.



The Road Warriors

California, here we come! This month, we go to the left coast for our revolving ratings category. The All-Star California Championship Wrestling Federation has an exciting mixture of veterans and rising young stars. The heavyweight champion is "Wildman" **Jack Armstrong**. The tag champs are young sensation **Peter Maivia Jr.** and former WWF World tag champ **Prof. Toru Tanaka**.

Should Flair be back on top? And do the Warriors deserve the number-one spot in the tag team ratings? We'd like to know how you feel about these and any other ratings subjects. Drop us a line at: "Ratings Analysis" c/o Sports Review Wrestling; Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY, 11571. □

THE VIDEOTAPE EVENT OF THE YEAR!



Slant-Eyed Slaughter

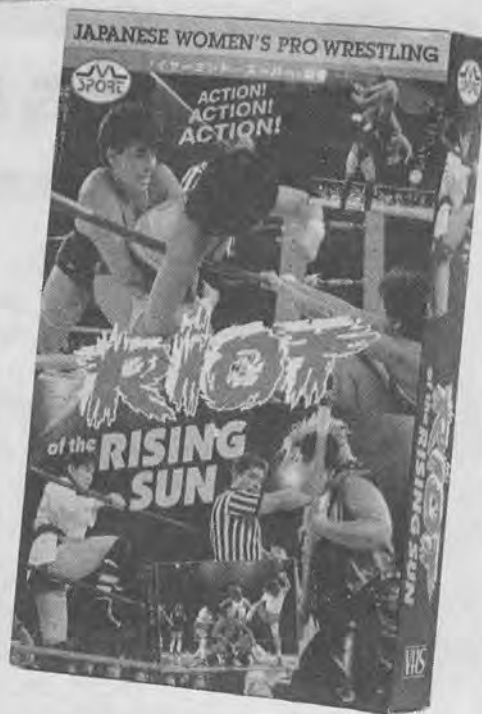
(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Wendi Richter & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Okumura
- Nancy Kumi vs. Lucy Kayama
- Monster Ripper & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Mimi Hagiwara
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Tarantula
- "Crush Girl" Lioness Asuka vs. "Crush Girl" Chigusa Nagayo

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Riot Of The Rising Sun

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Yukari Omori & Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori vs. Noriyo Tateno & Itysuki Yamasaki—"The Jumping Bomb Angels"
- Masked You & Kaoru "Dump" Matsumoto vs. Lioness Asuka & Chigusa Nagayo—"The Crush Girls"
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Las Galactica
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. "Devil" Masami

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INTERVIEW

LARRY ZBYSZKO

LARRY ZBYSZKO'S NAME is synonymous with infamy. Over the last 15 years, the 5'11", 248-pounder has parlayed a parade of contemptible actions in the WWF, NWA, and AWA into a new standard for disgracefulness. Currently, the NWA is undergoing yet another onslaught by the Pittsburgh native.

But Zbyszko was not always so hated. When he rose through the WWF ranks in the early '70s, he was touted as the successor to his teacher, trainer, and mentor, Bruno Sammartino. The two men, however, had a violent falling out, and Zbyszko, out of disrespect to the former two-time WWF champion, began touting himself as the "New Living Legend." Their war culminated in an August 9, 1980, cage match that drew over 40,000 fans to New York's Shea Stadium, a remarkable figure in the pre-WrestleMania era.

After failing to defeat his mentor, Zbyszko left, first for the Georgia region, and later for the AWA. Along the way he acquired a knowledge of the martial arts to back up his already impressive arsenal of scientific and brawling skills. His talk segment, "Larry Zbyszko's Corner," outraged fans, officials, and wrestlers alike. His management of Curt Hennig (which some would say was wholly constituted of handing Hennig a roll of coins) helped Hennig defeat Nick Bockwinkel for the AWA World title. But, Zbyszko, unsatisfied with advising and looking to wrestle again full-time, left for the NWA.



Larry Zbyszko's 15-year career has taken him to the WWF, the NWA, and the AWA. Now the veteran sadist is in the NWA and UWF, where he plans to go after UWF heavyweight champion Steve Williams—and he has the tools to get the job done.

Zbyszko surprised many observers of the mat scene by showing up in the NWA with Baby Doll, who had been out of the sport for some time. His early matches in the NWA have seen Zbyszko live up to his reputation: a little sweet science, some hard brawling, and a bit of strategic stalling—plus a new ingredient: some timely interference by Baby Doll.

Other top NWA wrestlers must now figure Zbyszko into their plans, whether as ally or enemy. Seasoned observers expect him to quickly become a dominant force, and that was the main theme of an interview he granted to *Sports Review* Wrestling Assistant Editor Gian Trotta in a Manhattan Hotel prior to a bout against Kevin Sullivan in Long Island's Nassau Coliseum.

Q: Welcome to New York, Larry. I know this town must have many memories for you, some good, some painful . . .

A: Pain? You're trying to talk to me about pain? What was your last encounter with that exquisite sensation? A bad paper cut? Who are you to talk about it?

Q: I wasn't referring to physical pain, actually, but more the pain of memory. Coming back to a town where you lost some tough matches. Right down the street in Madison Square Garden, for example, right over the river at Shea . . .

A: You mean the pain of being robbed by a bunch of senile officials who let their judgment be affected by a bunch of stupid, unwashed fans? That doesn't matter, because I succeeded in destroying a legend, and thus became a legend myself. But I've moved on to bigger and better things, so you'd better start asking some better questions.

Q: Some observers say that while you've had a very successful career, you've never been able to win the big matches. Except for a brief stint as co-holder of the WWF tag team title with Tony Garea back in 1979, you haven't really won any major titles. Do you expect to have a better chance in the NWA?

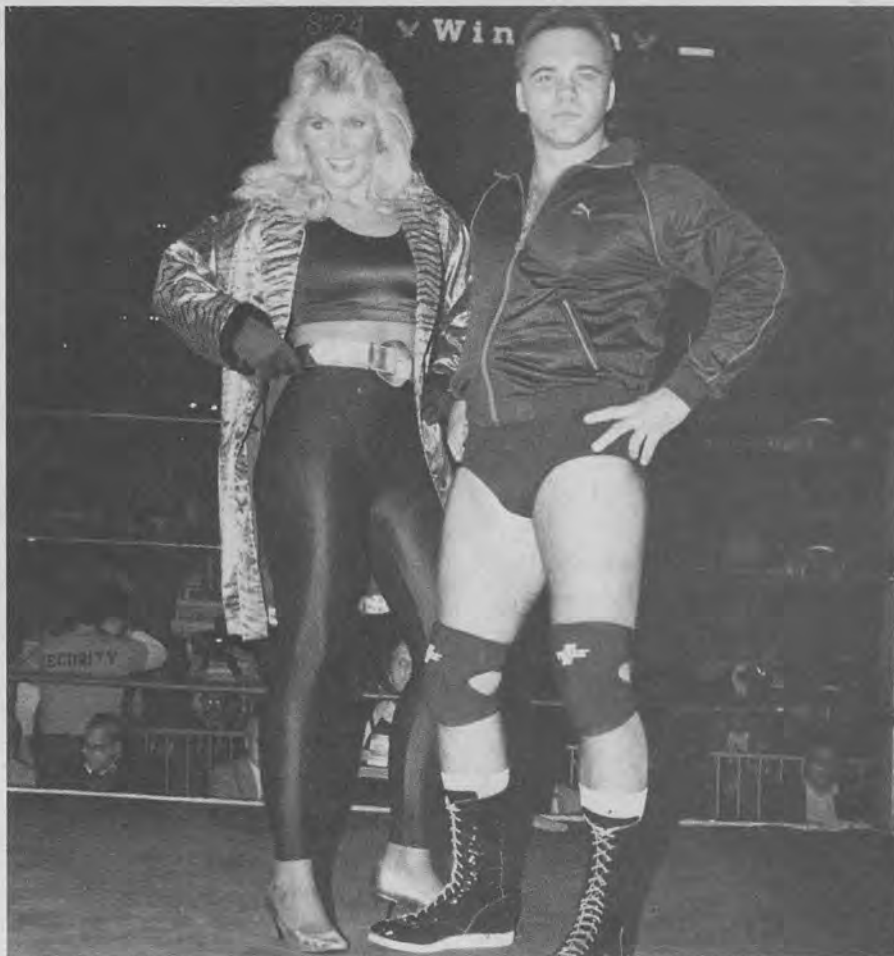
A: What do you mean no titles? What do you call the Georgia National title that I held in 1983?

Q: I was talking about titles won fair and square, not one that you bought from Killer Brooks for \$25,000.

A: A straight business transaction. I successfully defended the belt for several weeks, by the way, before the idiot NWA commissioners decided to strip me of the belt.

Q: Why have you decided to return to the NWA now?

A: One goes wherever there's a challenge, where the competition is toughest, and the opportunities are best. That's why I'm here. It seems that so-called "legends" grow on trees here. But I don't think any of



Zbyszko has enlisted the help of Baby Doll (above), who had been out of wrestling for nearly a year. Baby Doll has been a valet for many other wrestlers during her controversial career. One of Zbyszko's main new adversaries is Kevin Sullivan (below).



the current champions can match up to me, not in experience, and certainly not in wrestling knowledge. I can brawl, I can wrestle scientifically, and I'm a master of the martial arts. I am accompanied by a woman as beautiful as she is

crafty, Baby Doll. If that's not a "total wrestling package," I don't know what is.

Q: Well, the NWA already has a "total package" in Lex Luger, and a legend of sorts in U.S. champion Dusty Rhodes. Any thoughts on ei-

ther of them?

A: Plenty. Dusty Rhodes—if he's a legend, then I've come back just in the nick of time. I plan not only to take that blowhard's title, but to rid the wrestling world of his blubbery presence. I have him figured out from every angle, and he'll never be able to figure out my style. He knows very little about me. I know a great deal about him. You insult me by mentioning us in the same sentence.

Q: What about Luger, who recently had a falling out with The Four Horsemen?

A: Well, young Luger's shown that he's not up to the high standards of the Horsemen. But instead of



working on perfecting himself with the aid of wrestling experts like Ric Flair and Tully Blanchard, he decided to move out on his own. Big mistake. Without them he's in a lot of trouble, because he's never stood on his own before. Now he'll face his real test, and the boy has made some enemies in his time. He'll have to get by on his strength alone, and I don't think he can do it. Ask me again in 10 years, if Luger's still around. I don't think he'll last on his own. Not like me.

Q: Funny you should say that. I mean, there are rumors that you've been approached by J.J. Dillon with an offer to act as a kind of



Zbyszko puts Sullivan in a front chancery (left), then executes a painful over-the-knee backbreaker (above) during their match at the Nassau Coliseum. Zbyszko has injured many opponents over the years and plans to add many NWA and UWF stars to his list.

interim fourth Horseman. Any truth to that?

A: Where the hell do you get your information? Whoever told you that should have his legs broken! It's not true! They might need me, but I sure don't need them. I'm man enough to stand on my own!

Q: But you have Baby Doll as your constant companion. Or do you just need her because she was once Dusty Rhodes' valet and you're trying to pump her for all the information you can before Rhodes gives you a title shot? Would you have enlisted her services otherwise?

A: How much is Rhodes paying you to ask these questions? He'll find out soon enough what's in store for him . . . as for Baby Doll, well, just take one look at her and that's one very good reason to keep her around. You're probably still eating your heart out that she's not here for you to drool over. But at this particular moment, I don't need her. Baby Doll has a lot going for her—she's classy, brassy, and she knows a lot of the wrestlers' strengths and weaknesses.

Q: So Baby Doll . . .

A: I see that the only difference between you and the rest of the stu-

pid fans is that you don't pay to see the matches and have a type-writer. You, the public, and everyone else would like to know all the details about me and Baby Doll, but you're just going to have to wonder about certain things. Just put aside your filthy thoughts and consider this: Isn't it an advantage having an intelligent observer who's familiar with just about every other wrestlers' strategy in your corner? Doesn't an intelligent second pair of eyes double one's strategic capabilities?

Q: I guess so. But how could you call her interference "strategic" in any sense of the word?

A: Again, you are mistaken. If other wrestlers allow themselves to be distracted by her great beauty, then that's their problem. I'm the last man in the world with whom they should let their attention wander. Ask any other wrestler who they'd least like to face, and the answer will be, "Larry Zbyszko!"

Q: Well, I suppose you'd know better than me, Larry.

A: In every respect, buddy, in every respect. And that's Mr. Zbyszko—to you and everyone else.

Q: Except Baby Doll, I assume?

A: Except Baby Doll. Precisely. □



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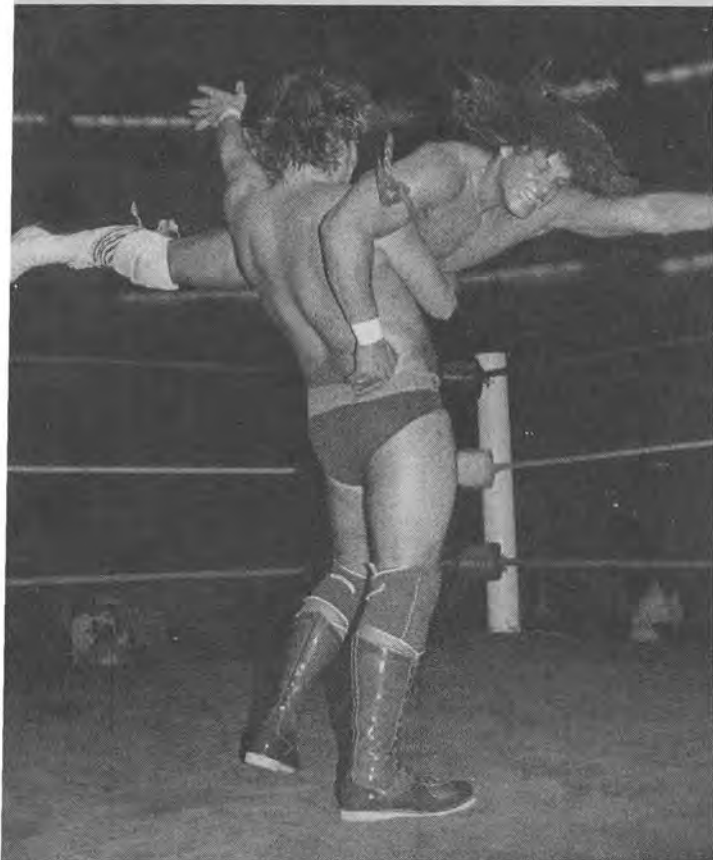
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SHAUN SIMPSON:



***RISING STAR IN THE
LONE STAR STATE***



Shaun Simpson finds himself at a disadvantage in his WCCW junior heavyweight title match against Eric Embry (left) on Thanksgiving, but takes control with a backdrop (above) and then displays his outstanding aerial skills with a stunning flying dropkick (below).

Since arriving in the World Class area six months ago, Shaun Simpson has experienced something of a baptism by fire. But the young South African has lived up to his challenges and shown that he's definitely championship caliber—and he's got the belt to prove it!

Photos by Buddy Myers

SHAUN SIMPSON ARRIVED in the World Class area last summer with some rather impressive credentials—and some rather serious doubts regarding his ability to succeed in Texas.

There were those who thought that the young South African would find the competition too tough once he joined his older brother, Steve, in World Class. Others thought that his main strength lay in his good looks, that he was nothing but a pinup idol long on style and short on substance.

But this view ignored Shaun's lifetime association with the sport (his father is one of the biggest wrestling promoters in South Africa), his impressive amateur record, and the advantage of having his brother to draw on for support and advice.



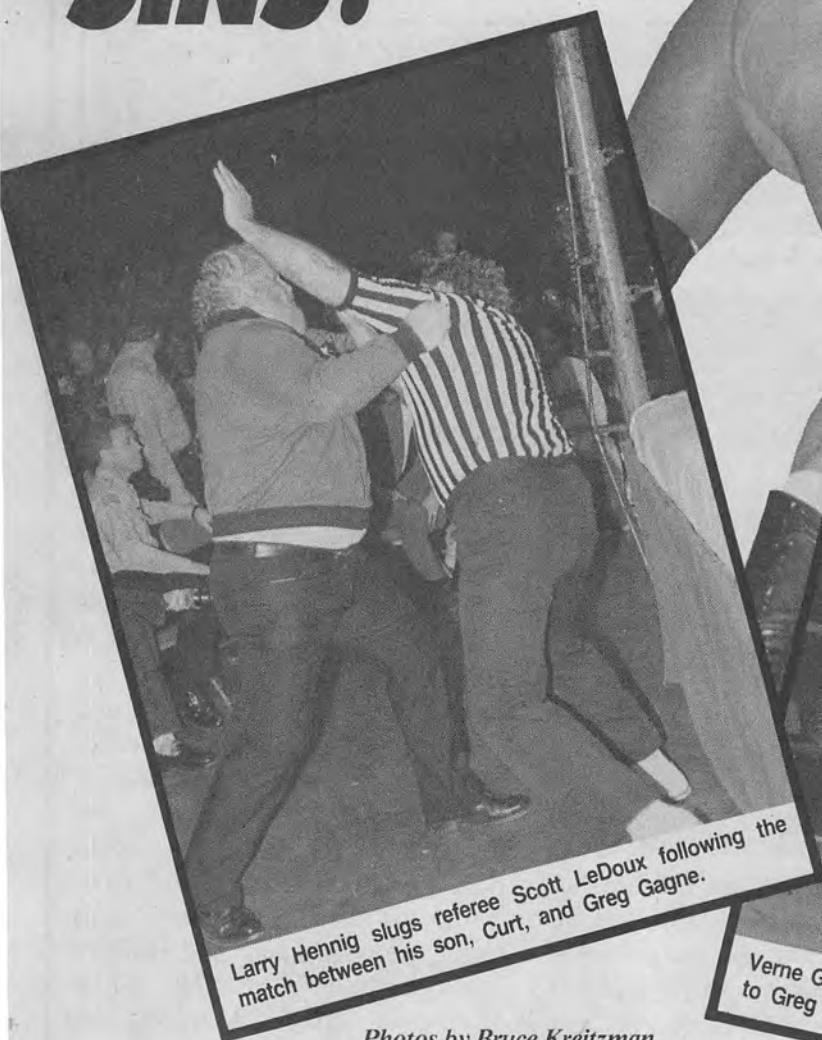
Well, Shaun still has his long hair and good looks. But with two impressive title victories already under his belt, he has forced his critics to talk about his accomplishments rath-

er than his long hair and rock-idol smile.

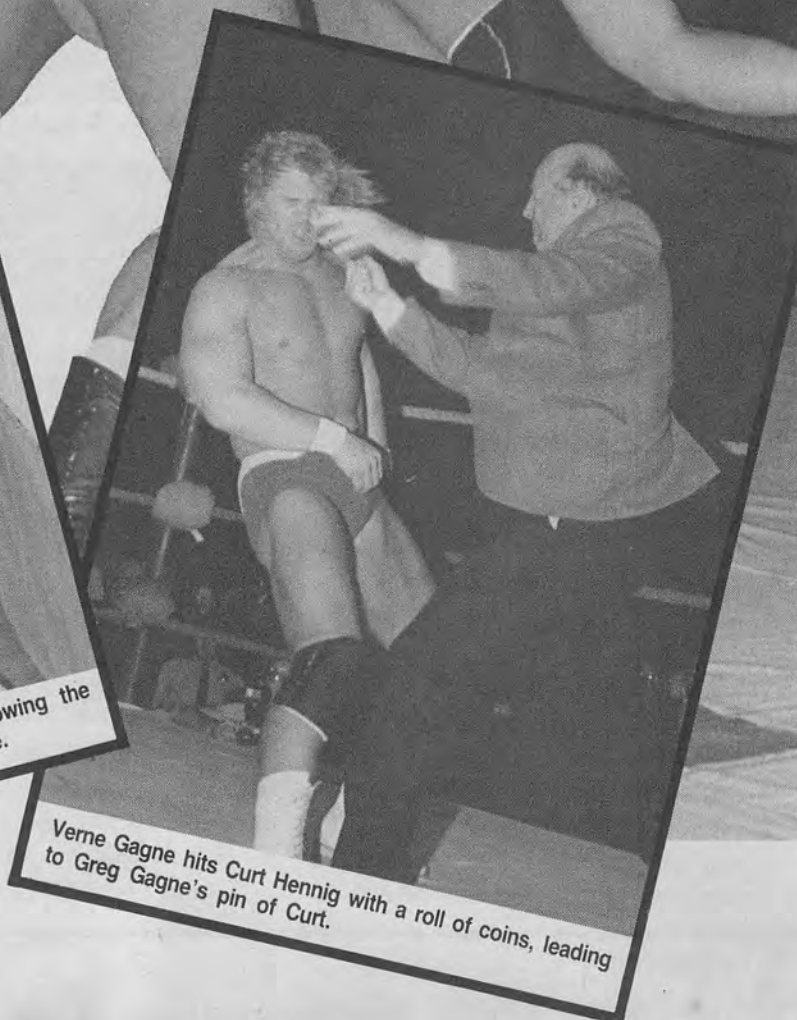
Shaun's first title came when he joined brother Steve in capturing the World Class tag team title on August 7 from Frank Lancaster and Eric Embry. Like many brother teams (Scott and Steve Armstrong, for example, or Kevin and Kerry Von Erich), the two Simpsons displayed uncanny teamwork in the ring. Their style combined the best elements of scientific wrestling, aerial ability, and straight-ahead slugging. Many critics were surprised by the Simpsons' abilities; some even became convinced that the Simpsons would hold the title for a long, long, time.

And the fact that they were both young, good-looking, and personable didn't hurt their status in the
(Continued on page 58)

AWA World Title Turmoil! **HOW GREG GAGNE AND CURT HENNIG ARE PAYING FOR THEIR FATHERS' SINS!**



Larry Hennig slugs referee Scott LeDoux following the match between his son, Curt, and Greg Gagne.



Verne Gagne hits Curt Hennig with a roll of coins, leading to Greg Gagne's pin of Curt.

Photos by Bruce Kreitzman

FOR MANY YEARS, Larry Hennig and Verne Gagne were the two main powers in the AWA. Gagne was a nine-time World champion from 1960 through 1981, and for much of that time his main challenger was Hennig, a vicious rulebreaker who hated—and envied—Gagne. Hennig was never able to win the World title (he did capture the AWA World tag team title four times), but he managed to injure Gagne several times.

Those days are over. Hennig and Gagne are much older now, far beyond the peak of their wrestling abilities. It's been several years since they've wrestled competitively. When they left the ring for the final time, both men left behind outstanding careers.

It's sad, then, and very unfortunate, that some people can't put the past behind them. One would think Gagne and Hennig could fondly look back on their careers with justifiable pride. But as they grow older, Hennig and Gagne grow more



Greg Gagne delivers a sensational flying dropkick to Curt Hennig's head during their AWA World title match on Thanksgiving Day. Hennig retained the championship, thanks to the interference of his father, Larry.

A fabulous feud between AWA World champion Curt Hennig and top challenger Greg Gagne has been tainted by the interference of their famous fathers. Verne Gagne and Larry Hennig think they're helping their sons, but in reality they're hurting them beyond repair!

bitter. And this bitterness has affected their sons, Curt Hennig and Greg Gagne.

Curt, a brilliant scientific wrestler and former tag team partner with Greg, did what his father never could last May when he defeated Nick Bockwinkel for the World title. Ironically, the modern-day version of the Gagne-Hennig feud now takes place in a role reversal: Hennig is the champion, Gagne the top challenger.

By any measure, this is an outstanding feud. As former partners, Gagne and Hennig know each other's moves perfectly. And although they are both outstanding scientific



Hennig flips Gagne to the mat. The war between these two outstanding scientific wrestlers has been marred by their fathers' interference.

wrestlers, Hennig has adopted a rulebreaking style since he took on Larry Zbyszko as his adviser last year (Zbyszko has since moved on to the NWA). Gagne, appalled by Hennig's sudden change, vowed to teach Curt a lesson. Hennig snickered at Gagne and insisted that he doesn't have what it takes to win the World championship.

Yet there is a darker side to this war. Larry Hennig and Verne Gagne refuse to sit back and watch their sons wrestle. Instead of letting Curt and Greg write a new chapter in the Hennig-Gagne family feud, they insist on joining in. The fathers
(Continued on page 60)

Prelude To THE SURVIVOR



Hulk Hogan's failure to win the main event at the Survivor Series was just one of many shocking incidents that took place as 50 WWF stars matched brains, wits, brawn, and ring savvy in a desperate struggle for survival!

THE FOUR MATCHES of the Survivor Series were designed to see the survival of the fittest, but they also demonstrated the survival of the smartest. Given the unique format of a 10-man (or 10-team) elimination match, individual effort took a backseat to teamwork and continuity.

The biggest survivors of all were undoubtedly that unique combination of brain and brawn that is Bobby Heenan and Andre the Giant. The two men successfully adapted their

game plan to the rules and conditions of the five-on-five main event match, using teammates One Man Gang, King Kong Bundy, Rick Rude, and Butch Reed to neutralize Hulk Hogan and waiting for the right time to strike.

When Andre and Hogan met midway through the match, the two men exchanged ring-shaking blows for about 30 seconds, until Hogan backed Andre—or (brilliant strategy at work?) the Giant let himself be backed—into the corner where

Bundy and Gang were waiting. Bundy then grabbed Hogan's leg and pulled him from the ring. Hogan forgot all about Andre and bodyslammed Bundy. But before he could get back into the ring, One Man Gang came over and attacked Hogan; he was also bodyslammed for his pains. But though Hogan had bested three of the toughest men in wrestling, he had been counted out of the match.

Was the attack planned by Heenan? Probably. Through a piece

WrestleMania IV? SURVIVOR SERIES!



of cannily engineered strategy, Hogan was declared a loser in one of the biggest WWF cards of the year.

Indeed, given that wrestling is as much psychological as it is physical, Heenan proved to be Hogan's master in the mental portion of the sport. A champion—particularly a world champion as visible as Hogan—should not allow himself to be taken advantage of in such a blatant fashion. Perhaps it was the frustration of such a defeat that led to Hogan's contemptible postmatch attack on the victorious Andre—an attack that was launched from behind the Giant's back! Is this any way for a champion to act? You'd better believe it isn't.

And that's the genius of Heenan's

strategy. Hogan has been placed off-balance. He is on the defensive. And a champion on the defensive is but one step away from losing his title. No doubt Heenan and Andre are looking to take that final step at WrestleMania IV.

But the Andre-Hogan confrontation was just one of the day's highlights. Three more bouts in the Survivor Series highlighted the very best that the WWF has to offer:

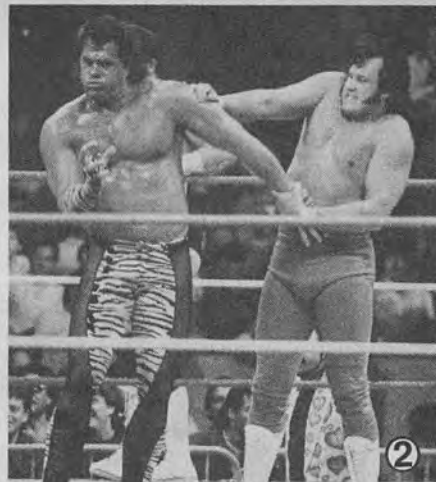
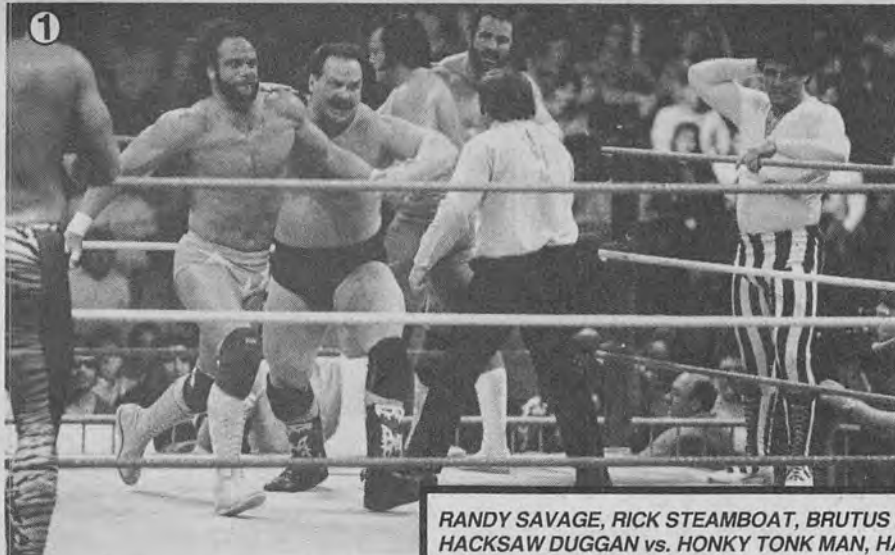
In the tag team match, The Killer Bees and The Young Stallions (Paul Roma and Jim Powers) outsmarted and outwrestled The Islanders and The Dream Team (Dino Bravo and Greg Valentine).

In the women's match, The Jumping Bomb Angels' precision team-

work and pure scientific and aerial skills allowed them to beat WWF women's tag champs Lelani Kai and Judy Martin.

Perhaps the only truly disappointing moment of the card came when Intercontinental champion The Honky Tonk Man elected to walk out of the ring rather than face a three-on-one situation against Rick Steamboat, Jake Roberts, and Randy Savage. The act was cowardly, particularly in the face of Bam Bam Bigelow's later three-on-one showing against Gang, Bundy, and Andre.

On the pages that follow, *Sports Review Wrestling* is proud to present a close look at the four matches that made up a remarkable day on the WWF calendar: the Survivor Series!



RANDY SAVAGE, RICK STEAMBOAT, BRUTUS BEEFCAKE, JAKE ROBERTS, & HACKSAW DUGGAN vs. HONKY TONK MAN, HARLEY RACE, HERCULES HERNANDEZ, RON BASS, & DANNY DAVIS

The first match of the night had 10 men on two teams, but only one feud with major significance: Randy "Macho Man" Savage vs. The Honky Tonk Man, who acted as captains of their respective teams. The other eight men in the ring could not obscure the hatred felt between the current and former Intercontinental champions. Harley Race and Hacksaw Duggan may have had their differences, but since they were the first two wrestlers eliminated, the focus was clearly on the former (Savage) and current (Honky Tonk) Intercontinental champions.

1. Bass whips Savage across the ring. It was Beefcake who pinned and eliminated Bass after a knee to the face. Bass has not had much success since coming over from the NWA. For his part, however, Beefcake has done well since becoming a fan favorite.

2. Honky Tonk, applying an armbar on Beefcake, would later suffer the embarrassment of deserting in the face of danger.

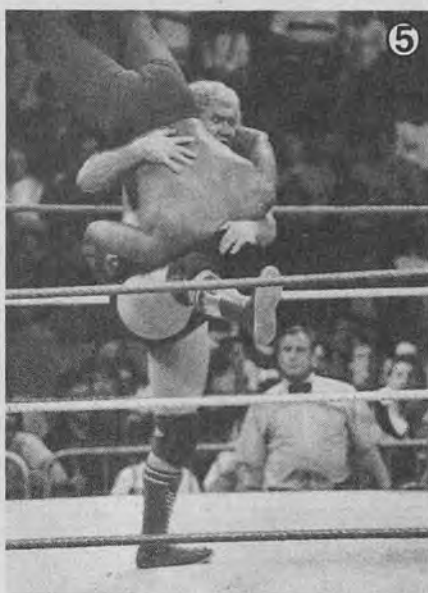
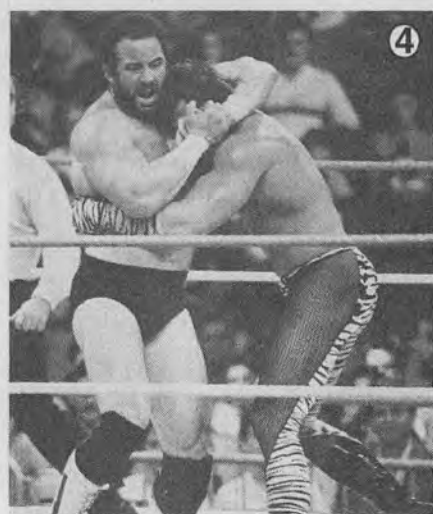
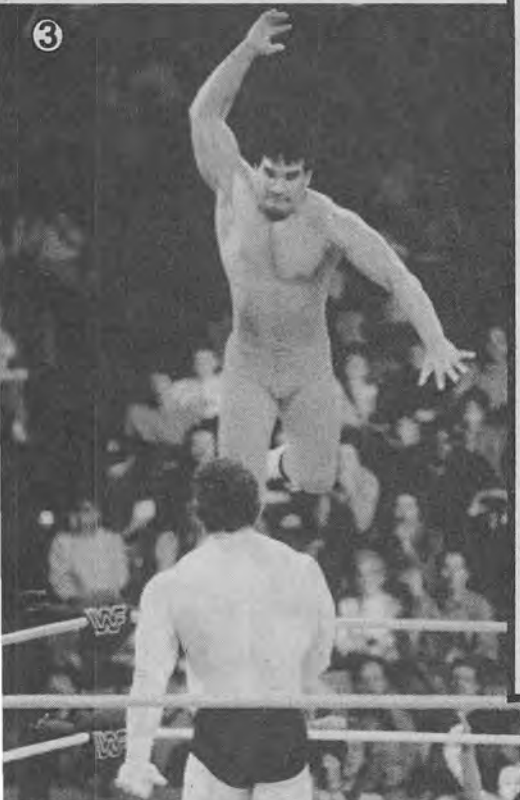
3. Steamboat comes at Hernandez with a high chop. It's remarkable that Steamboat and Savage were on the same team only six months after their violent feud culminated at WrestleMania III. Alliances can shift very quickly in this sport!

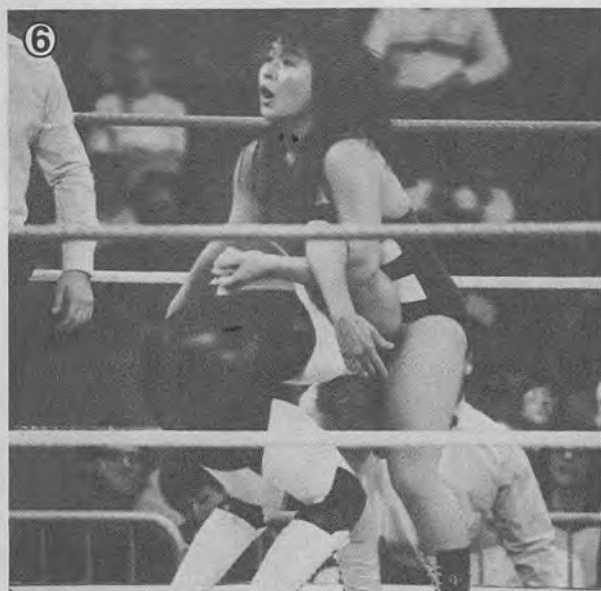
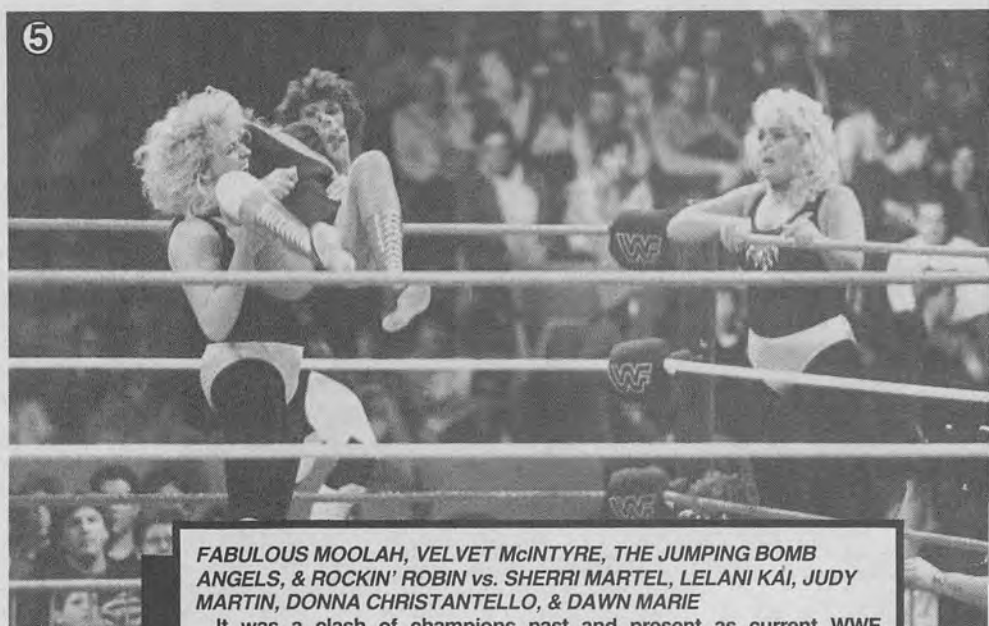
4. Hercules catches Beefcake in a headlock. After being weakened by Hernandez, Beefcake was pinned by Honky Tonk; Hernandez would be eliminated by Savage with an off-the-top-rope elbowsmash.

5. Race gives Steamboat a shoulderbreaker. Although he's not as fine a wrestler as he once was, Race is still formidable, and demonstrated so in this bout.

6. Savage and Steamboat beckon Honky Tonk to come back to the ring. Honky Tonk bailed out after refusing to be on the short end of a three-on-one against Savage, Steamboat, and Roberts.

Savage's team won, but Honky Tonk had the last word of the night. He insisted that no one had beaten him; after all, he wasn't pinned and he still had the Intercontinental belt. He also took the opportunity to challenge Hulk Hogan to a title vs. title match, a challenge it is unlikely that Hogan will soon accept considering all his problems with Andre the Giant.





FABULOUS MOOLAH, VELVET MCINTYRE, THE JUMPING BOMB ANGELS, & ROCKIN' ROBIN vs. SHERRI MARTEL, LELANI KAI, JUDY MARTIN, DONNA CHRISTANTELO, & DAWN MARIE

It was a clash of champions past and present as current WWF women's titlist "Sensational" Sherri Martel faced off against former champ Fabulous Moolah. Included on Moolah's team was a dynamic team from Japan, The Jumping Bomb Angels (Itsuki Yamazaki and Noriyo Tateno). Martel's team featured the WWF women's tag team champions, The Glamour Girls (Lelani Kai and Judy Martin).

1. McIntyre tries a forward roll on Kai. It was a move with which she used to pin Christantello and Martel, but couldn't get Kai. McIntyre is herself a former WWF women's tag team champion.

2. Yamazaki goes for the flying bodypress on Kai. The Angels surprised and delighted many with their superb technical skills, which serve them well in the intense Japanese women's mat wars.

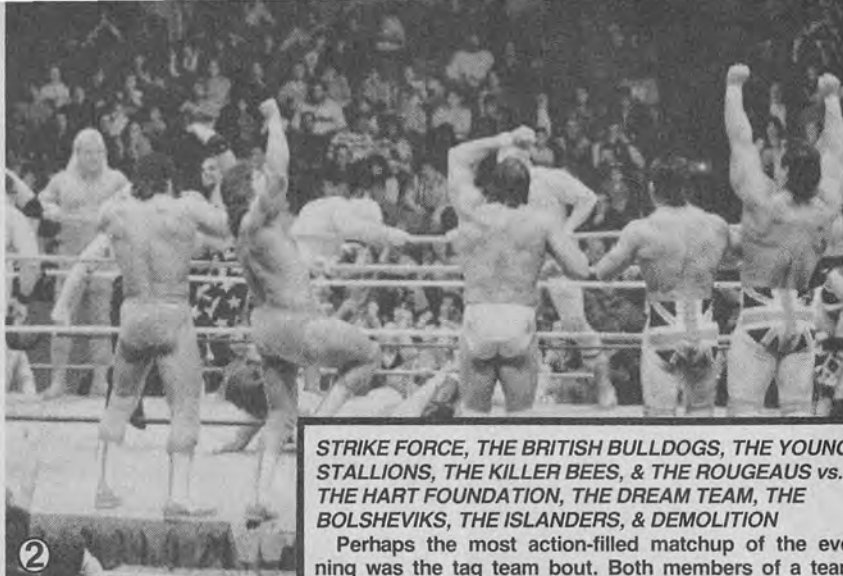
3. McIntyre attempts to roll Martin into a Boston crab. McIntyre was pinned by Kai, a former WWF women's champ who lost the belt to Wendi Richter at WrestleMania I.

4. Yamazaki dropkicks Martel, who was pinned by McIntyre. "Sensational" Sherri dominated women's wrestling in the AWA before she became the top woman in the WWF.

5. Martin lifts up Moolah for a suplex. Moolah is still unaccustomed to being just another contender. Her title reign of nearly 30 years was one of the greatest streaks in sports history.

6. Yamazaki sets Martel up for a double-underhook suplex. Some of the moves the Japanese women executed were stunningly complex and effective.

The 20-minute contest concluded when Tateno pinned Martin as Yamazaki dropkicked Jimmy Hart (who was managing Kai and Martin) off the ring apron. The Angels have added a great deal of excitement to the American women's wrestling scene.



STRIKE FORCE, THE BRITISH BULLDOGS, THE YOUNG STALLIONS, THE KILLER BEES, & THE ROUGEAUS vs. THE HART FOUNDATION, THE DREAM TEAM, THE BOLSHEVIKS, THE ISLANDERS, & DEMOLITION

Perhaps the most action-filled matchup of the evening was the tag team bout. Both members of a team had to be on special alert, because if one man was pinned or submitted, the other was also eliminated.

1. Jim Powers of the Stallions suplexes Greg Valentine. The Stallions surprised many by staying in the match as long as they did. They appear to have a promising future together. Valentine and Dino Bravo, on the other hand, were making one of their last appearances together as The Dream Team.

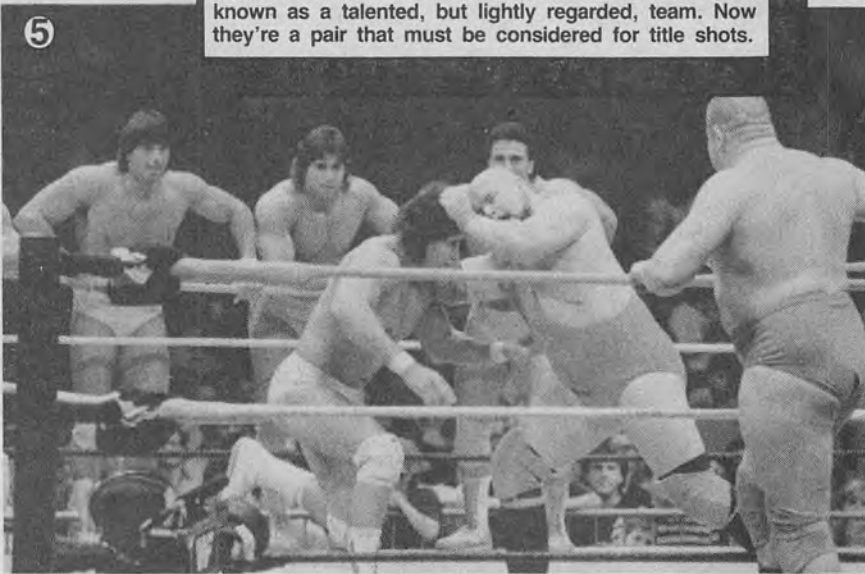
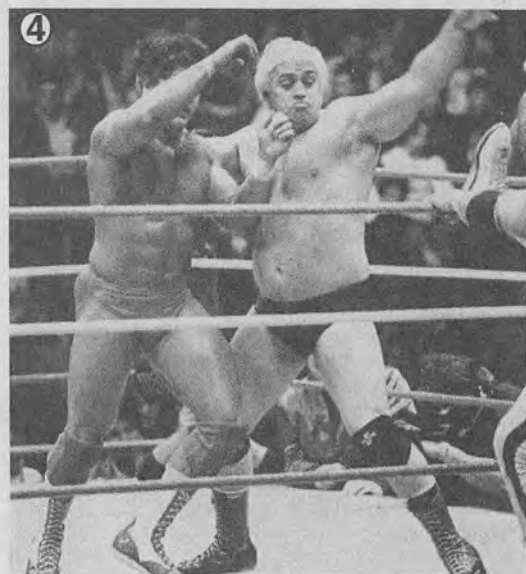
2. Strike Force's team celebrates as Tito Santana eliminates Boris Zukhov after a flying forearm. Zukhov and Nikolai Volkoff were the first ones out. Not too long ago, the WWF was known as a graveyard for tag team wrestling, but the situation has improved dramatically.

3. Jim Brunzell lifts Brett Hart up for a slam. Islander Tama dropkicked Hart in the back, allowing Hart to attempt a pin on Brunzell, but Brunzell reversed the move and got the pin. The Bees and the Stallions became the survivors when B. Brian Blair pinned Tama with a sunset flip off the top rope.

4. Bravo runs Powers into Jim Neidhart's boot. Bravo had to leave after Powers' partner, Paul Roma, pinned Valentine. The Hart Foundation wanted desperately to rebound from losing the tag team title by winning the Survivor Series, but some well-prepared wrestlers spoiled their efforts.

5. Santana and Zukhov begin the match. Santana's career was rejuvenated when he and Rick Martel formed Strike Force. Both men had experience as tag champions with other partners, so a Strike Force championship was almost inevitable. However, they were the second team out on their side.

The big winners in this match were The Young Stallions. Prior to the Survivor Series, they had been known as a talented, but lightly regarded, team. Now they're a pair that must be considered for title shots.





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HULK HOGAN, BAM BAM BIGELOW, PAUL ORNDORFF, KEN PATERA, & MAGNIFICENT MURACO vs. ANDRE THE GIANT, KING KONG BUNDY, ONE MAN GANG, RICK RUDE, & BUTCH REED

There was enormous anticipation for this match as everyone prepared for a WrestleMania III-style showdown between Hulk Hogan and Andre the Giant. Indeed, the big question before the bout was: Would Hogan and Andre be the last two men in the ring?

1. Orndorff lets fly with an elbowsmash on Rude, who is held back by Muraco. The Orndorff-Rude feud has centered around the dispute over who has the best body in the WWF. Orndorff had Rude up for a piledriver, but Rude got the pin—thanks to Bundy's interference.

2. Patera puts Gang off-balance with a bodypress. Gang, who pinned Patera following a clothesline, was one of the last three men in the ring.

3. Hogan aims a fist at Rude after Orndorff tags out. Notice Oliver Humperdink, manager of Orndorff and Bigelow, at ringside. In addition to helping his men, Humperdink was there to counteract the influence of Bobby Heenan, who had three of his men (Andre, Bundy, and Rude) in the match.

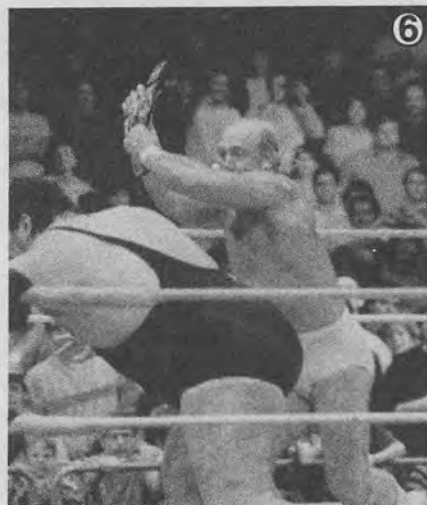
4. Andre pounds Bigelow unmercifully. Bigelow, not Hogan, was the final representative of his team (Hogan was counted out of the ring); the Giant eventually pinned him with a vertical suplex.

5. A stunningly agile big man, Bigelow dropkicks Bundy, whom he pinned with an over-the-top-rope vault. Bigelow displayed a fine effort as he went solo against Bundy, Gang, and Andre in the final minutes.

6. Andre barely has time to celebrate his victory when Hogan charges the ring and smashes him in the head with the championship belt. Hogan interrupted Andre during his moment of glory, leaving him open to charges of being a sore loser.



5



6

STARRCADE '87

CHI-TOWN HEAT!

GLORY BOUND!

Ric Flair won the NWA World title! Dusty Rhodes won the U.S. title! But that's only part of the story! Starrcade '87 was one of the greatest cards in wrestling history and *Sports Review Wrestling* was there to bring you all the action and excitement!



Fans mill outside the University of Illinois at Chicago Pavilion before the start of Starrcade '87. It was the first time that Starrcade was held in The Windy City.

JIM CROCKETT PROMOTIONS' fifth-annual Starrcade was one of the most historic cards ever. Held on Thanksgiving in Chicago before a sellout crowd at the UIC Pavilion, the 2½-hour show saw two title changes, a TV title unification, and a thrilling scaffold match.

Starrcade '87 was dubbed "Chi-Town Heat/Glory Bound," but only three wrestlers truly withstood the heat and were bound for glory: Ric Flair (the new NWA World champion), Dusty Rhodes (the new U.S. champion), and Nikita Koloff (the unified NWA/UWF TV champion).

Starrcade '87 was a glorious day for the wrestling fan as well. From the time the opening bout began at 4 p.m. CST—the first time a Starrcade card was held in the afternoon—the NWA's most important show of the year provided non-stop action and memorable excitement.

Rick Steiner, Eddie Gilbert, and Larry Zbyszko (with Baby Doll) vs. Sting, Michael Hayes, and Jim Garvin (with Precious). The highlight of the match came with less than two minutes expired when Sting dove through the ropes on top of Steiner, who was on the arena floor. It ended

in a time-limit draw when Hayes sunset flipped Gilbert for the pin but only got a two-count before the bell rang. *Time: 15:00.*

Steve Williams vs. Barry Windham. Williams, the UWF champion, took on Windham, the Western States champ, in a much-anticipated scientific match. With approximately five minutes expired, Williams went for a leapfrog but was inadvertently headbutted in the groin. Williams writhed in pain, but Windham wouldn't go in for the kill. He paid for this sportsmanlike act less than two minutes later. Williams

(Continued on page 63)

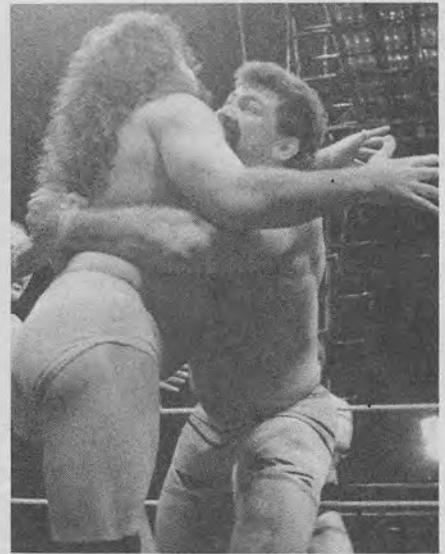
STARRCADE '87

**MICHAEL HAYES,
JIM GARVIN,
& STING**

**EDDIE GILBERT,
LARRY ZBYSZKO,
& RICK STEINER**

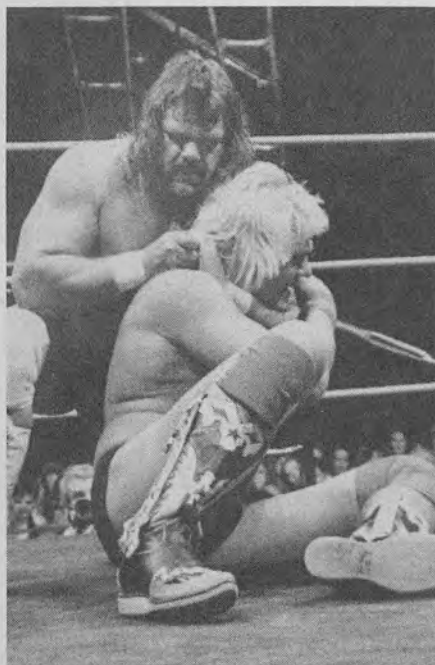


Larry Zbyszko puts Jimmy Garvin in a painful abdominal stretch in the opening six-man tag team match. Sting puts Rick Steiner in a standing armbar (above). Steiner holds Garvin in a bearhug (right).

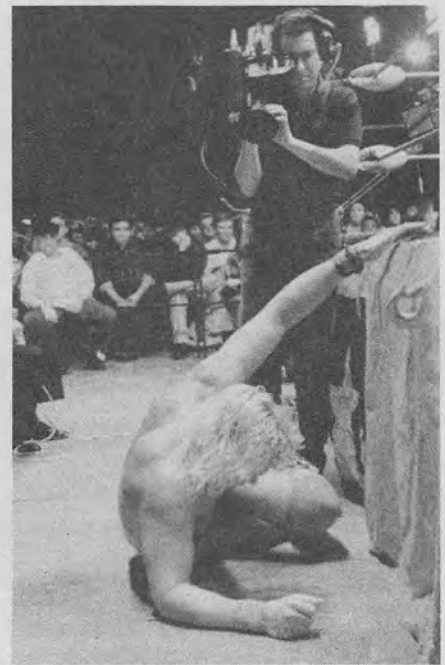
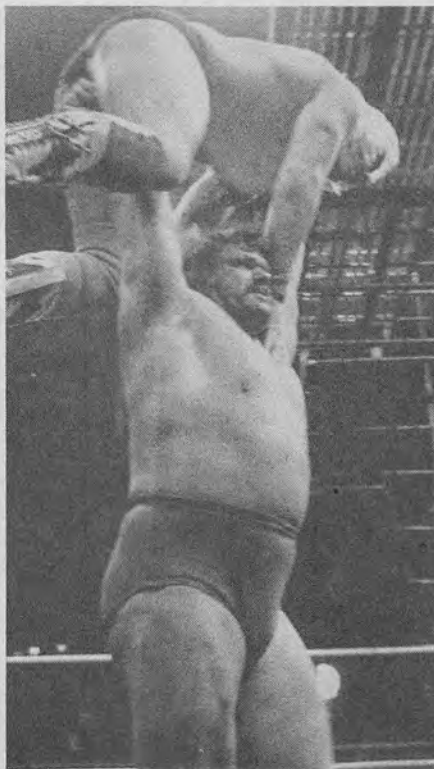


**STEVE
WILLIAMS**

**BARRY
WINDHAM**



UWF champion Steve Williams applies a rear chinlock on Western States champion Barry Windham early in their much-anticipated scientific match.

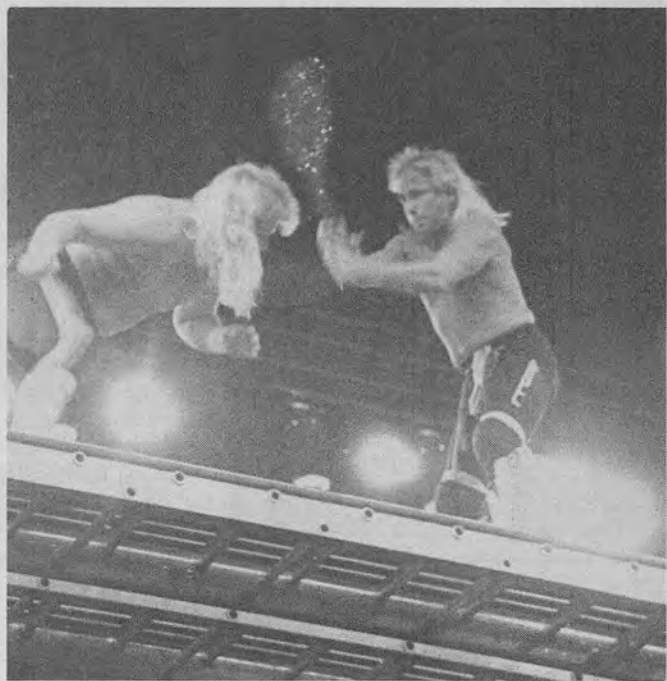
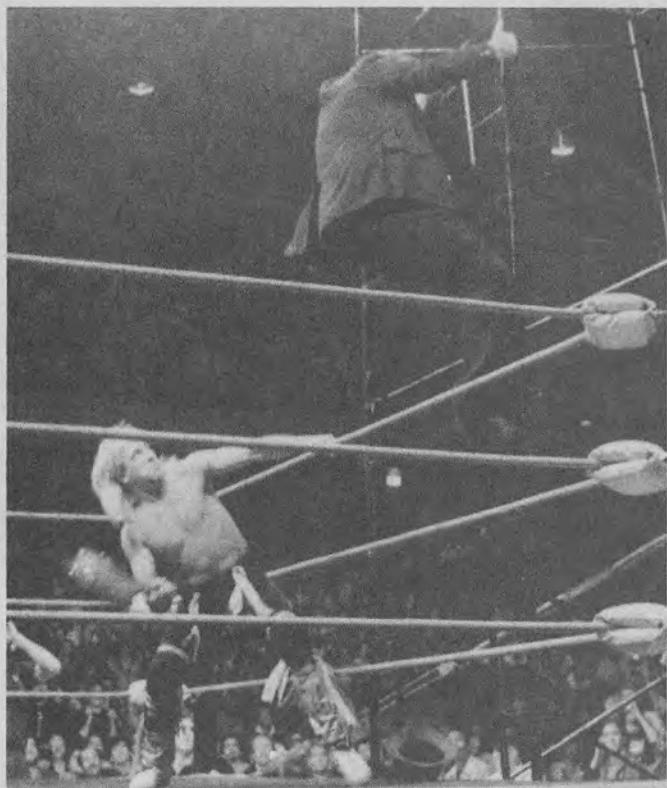


Williams holds Windham high above his head for a press slam (left). Later, Windham missed a cross-bodyblock and flew out of the ring (above).

STARRCADE '87

THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS

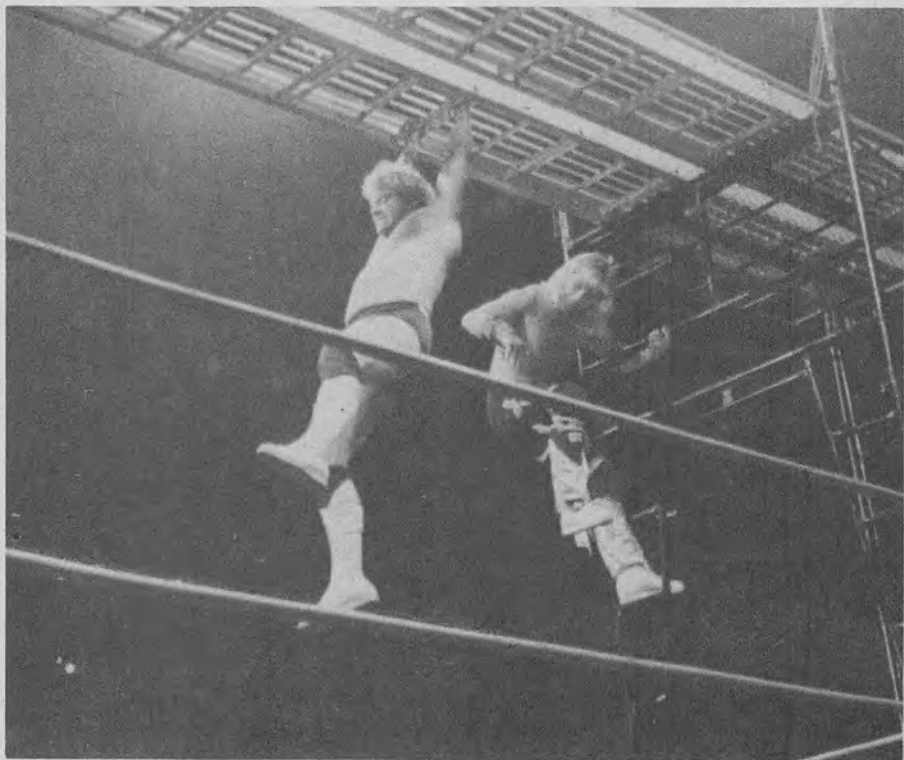
THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS



Jim Cornette's tennis racket played an important part in this high-risk match. Big Bubba Rogers tries to scramble up the ladder before the match, but is attacked by Rick Morton (left), who later pounds on Bobby Eaton's head (above).



Robert Gibson's scissorkick sends Eaton flying off the scaffold to win the match for the Rock 'n' Rolls (above). Earlier, Stan Lane tried in vain to hold off Morton's assault (right).



STARRCADE

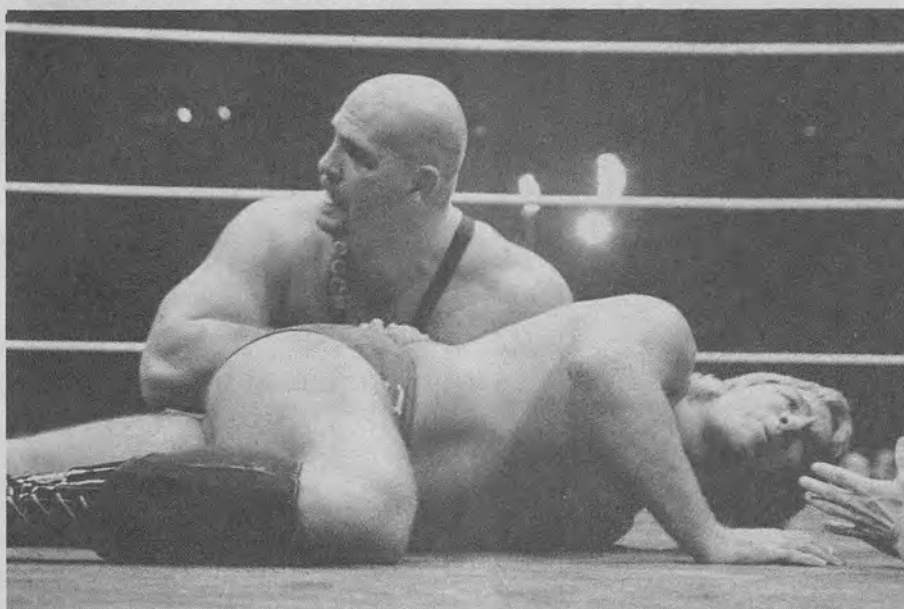
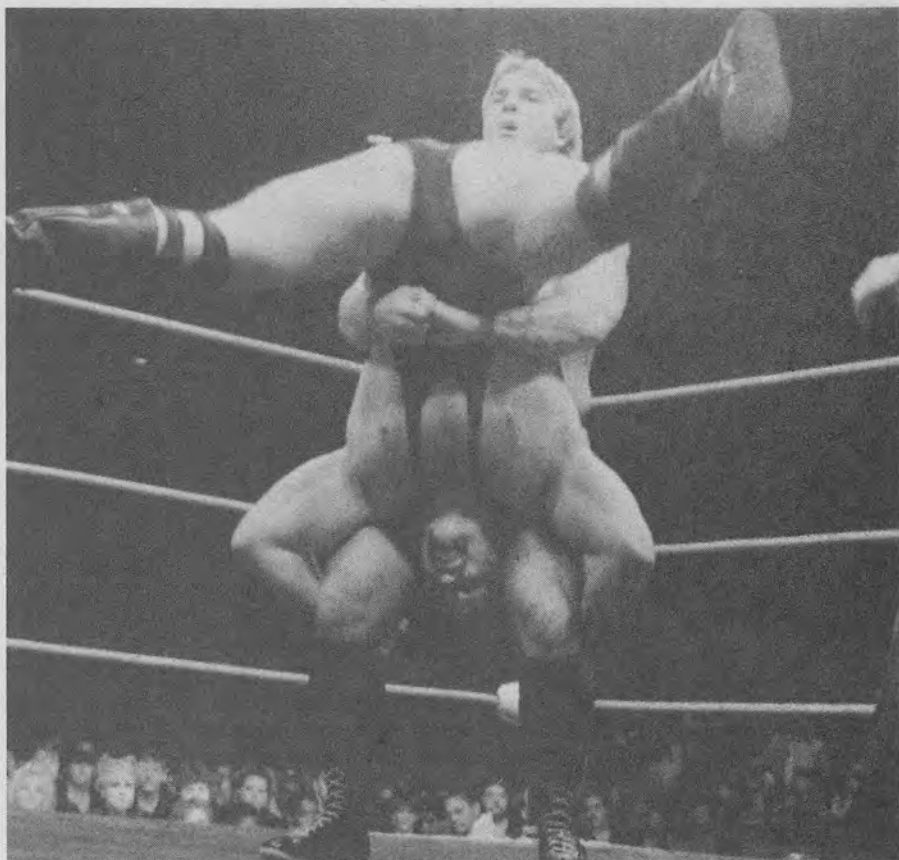
NIKITA KOLOFF

'87

TERRY TAYLOR



NWA TV champ Nikita Koloff mounts the middle rope to pound on UWF TV champ Terry Taylor (above). Koloff won, but Taylor controlled much of the unification match as he does here with a piledriver (right).



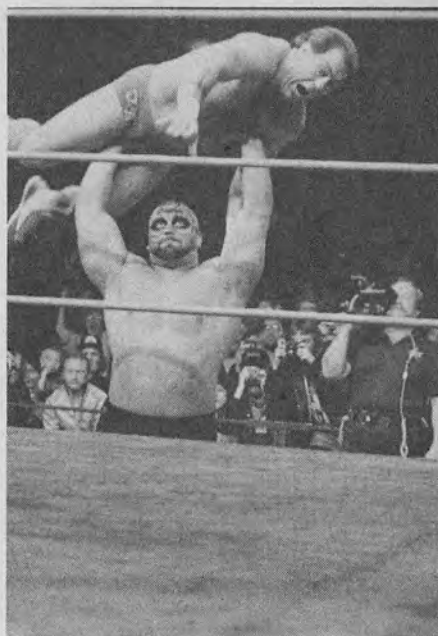
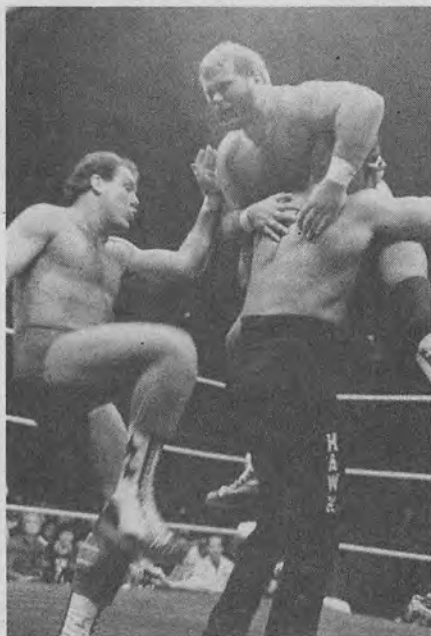
Taylor tries to work his way off the mat as Koloff works on his left arm (above). Nikita mounted a stirring comeback to pin Taylor with a Russian sickle and walked out of the ring with both belts (right).



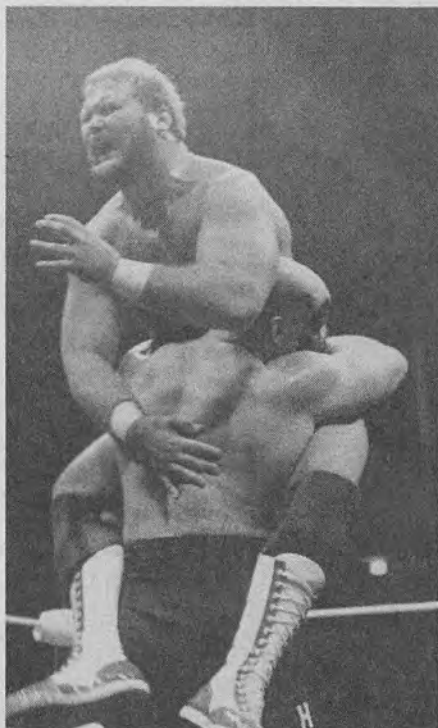
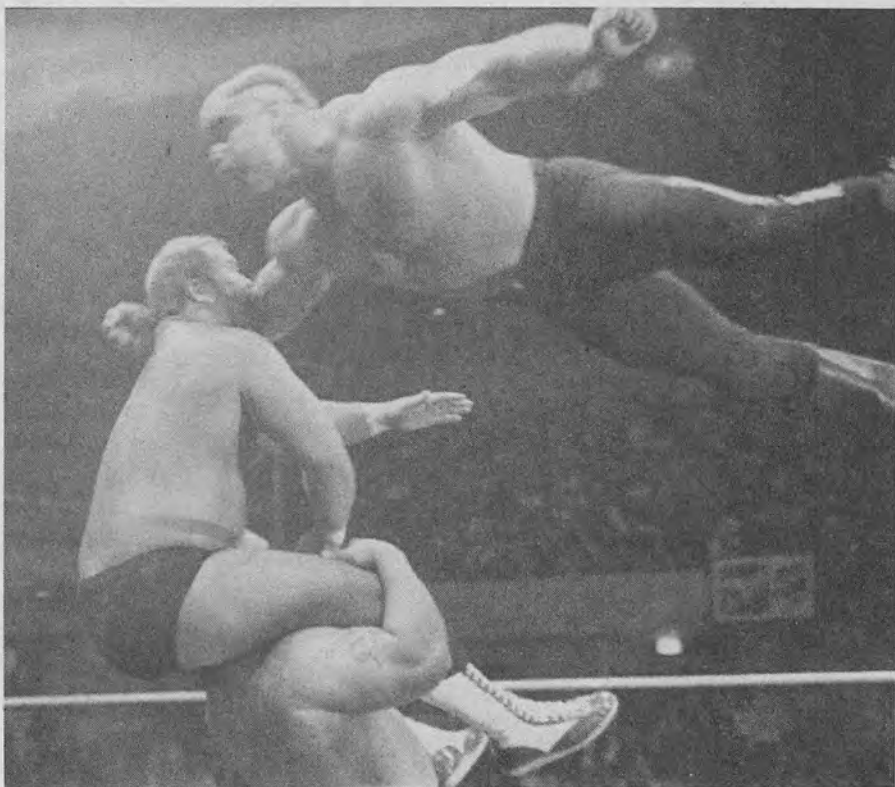
STARRCADE '87

THE ROAD WARRIORS

TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON



The Road Warriors display their awesome power against the NWA World tag team champions. Tully Blanchard comes to the aid of his partner Arn Anderson, who's caught by Hawk in a painful bearhug (above left). Animal sends Anderson flying (above center), then effortlessly prepares to throw Tully back into the ring (above right).



Animal holds Arn as Hawk executes an incredible flying clothesline from the top rope (left). Animal covered Anderson for the pin but was disqualified for throwing Blanchard over the top rope. Arn tries to resist Hawk's bearhug (above).

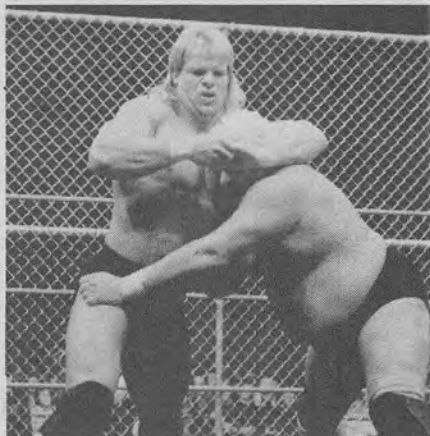
STARRCADE '87

DUSTY RHODES

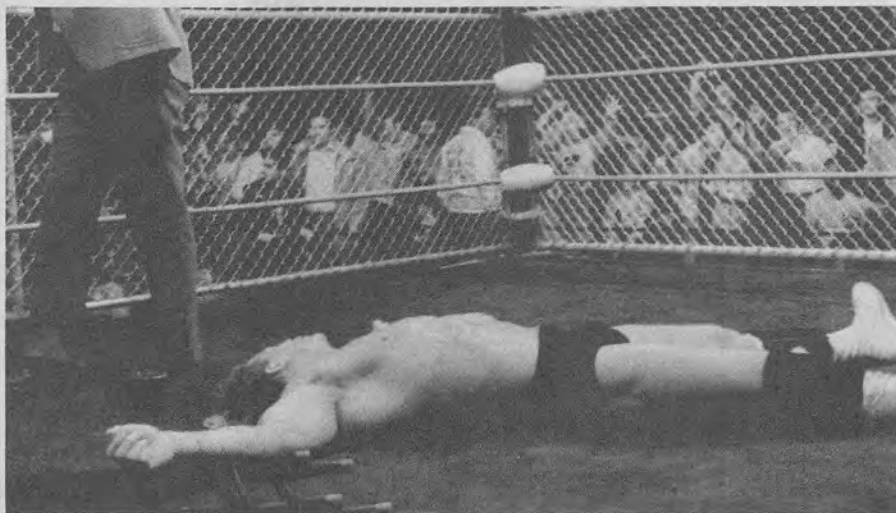
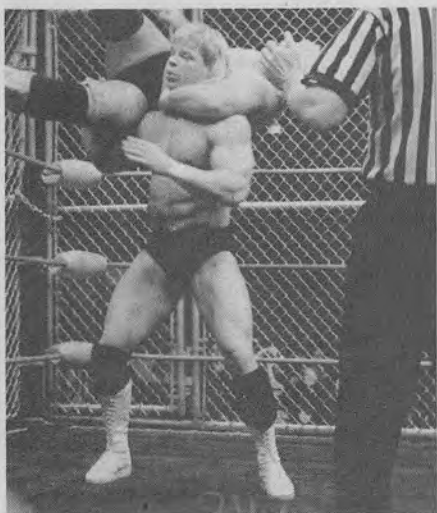
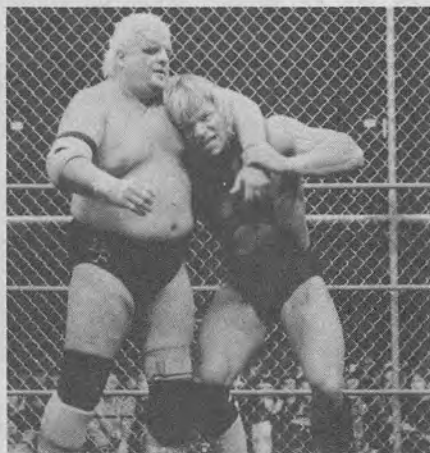
LEX LUGER



Luger braces Rhodes and then hoists the 302-pound "American Dream" into the air for an attempted backbreaker (right and below left). Rhodes was considered a major underdog going into the match, but at the end Luger was an ex-champion prone on the mat (below right), the result of a DDT on a steel chair.



Lex Luger is considered one of the strongest men in wrestling, but he couldn't resist Dusty Rhodes' armlock (left). Rhodes has a hold on Luger's legs as the U.S. champ applies a side headlock (above).



STARRCADE '87

RIC FLAIR

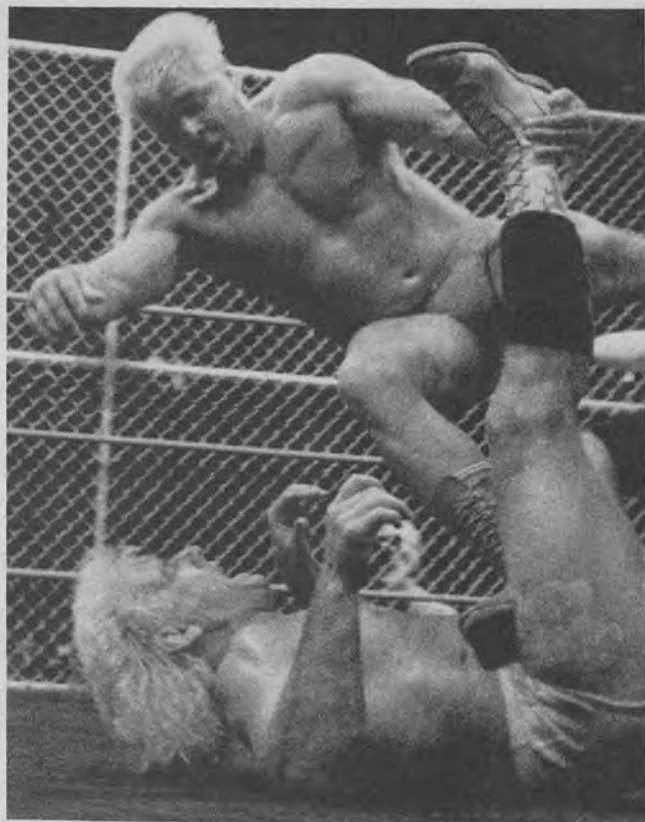
RONNIE GARVIN



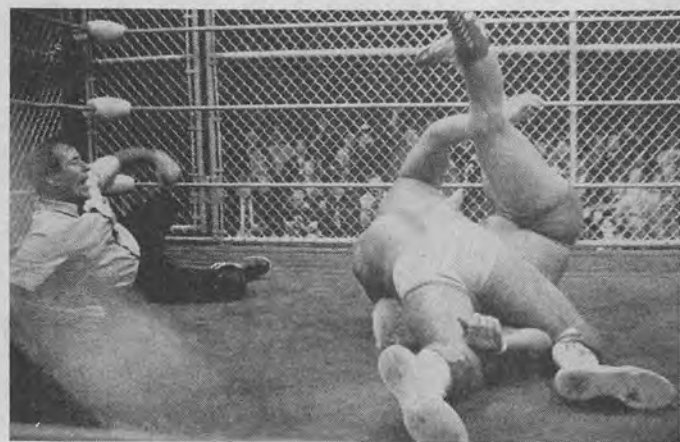
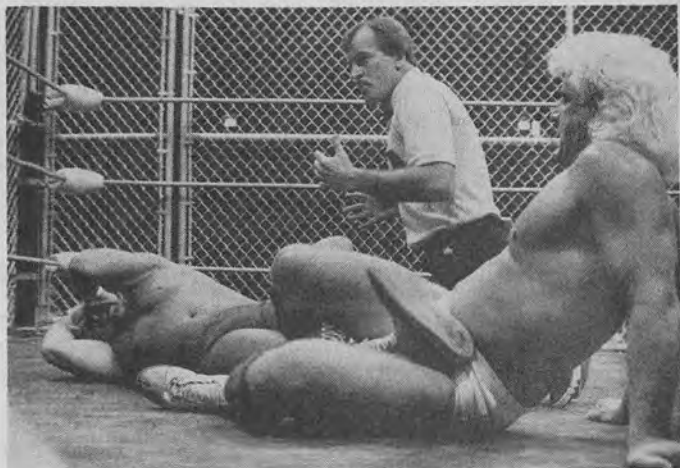
Ric Flair holds up his hands to ward off Ronnie Garvin's flying bodypress (above), but finds himself helpless as Garvin looks to the fans for approval before delivering a "hands of stone" punch (right).



Garvin decided to defend his NWA World title by using utilizing his power. Here he sets up Flair for another series of punches. Garvin, however, was no match for Flair's finesse.

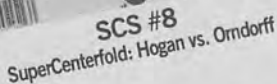
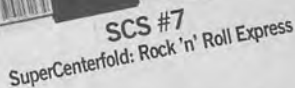


A bloody Flair endures some more pain as Garvin works on his legs with a painful hamstring pull (above). Slick Ric, however, was up to the task. Referee Tommy Young gives the three-count as Flair pins Garvin at 16:39 to win his fifth NWA World title (right).



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REPORTER

(Continued from page 12)

good play on Tama's part. But Brunzell had the last laugh when he rolled over and reversed the pin! And that's no small feat, considering that 'The Anvil' must have felt like he'd been hit by a freight train! Another spectacular move was when Paul Roma sunset flipped Greg Valentine while he was trying to put the figure-four on Jimmy Powers. I think those two moves really made the difference in the outcome of the tag team match."

Josie Hawkins, Macon, GA: "It had to be watching 'Slick' Ric take his title back from that 'Barney Rubble' Ron Garvin. I just knew, knew, *knew* that he was going to do it, 'cause Ric knows he's nothing without his 10 pounds of gold. He just doesn't look right without it. It's funny, but I feel that now that the 'Nature Boy' has his belt back, everything's right in the world again. And there ain't no one gonna take it from him, either!"

Dan Johanson, St. Paul, MN: "Well, it's been a long time since I've seen an ending to compare with the Curt Hennig-Greg Gagne AWA World title match. First, Greg got Curt in the sleeperhold, and it looked like he was finally going to get the title, when Larry Hennig jumped up on the ring apron. I thought it was going to be another Hennig outside interference job, especially when Greg came over to argue with Larry. But then Verne Gagne jumped in on the other side of the ring and nailed Curt with a roll of coins. If that's not poetic justice, then I don't know what is! Now they tell me that the title is being held up, but I think the Gagnes paid back the Hennigs in their own coin, if you'll forgive the pun."

Scott Phillips, Wilkes-Barre, PA: "It had to be when that no-good skunk The Honky Tonk Man ducked out of the ring rather than face Jake 'The Snake' Roberts, Rick Steamboat, and

'Macho Man' Randy Savage. For a couple of minutes it looked like Honky Tonk was going to get paid back in spades for all the trouble he's caused, but he took a walk. It seemed almost too good to be true that the three guys who Honky Tonk's hurt most in the past year should all have a chance to beat the spit out of him. And I don't think that many of the fans were gonna get up and go for a soda at *that* point. But that jerk spoiled everything when he decided to take a walk rather than fight like a man. The Honky Tonk Man's nothing! Put him in a steel cage against Savage, Steamboat, Roberts, or Hogan, and it'll be all over for him!"



Bobby Eaton wields Jim Cornette's tennis racket against Robert Gibson. The Rock 'n' Roll Express came out ahead in this scaffold showdown at Starrcade.

Colleen McConnell, Gurnee, IL: "It had to be the scaffold match between The Rock 'n' Roll Express and The Midnight Express. The match just kept going back and forth all over the place. I thought all was lost when Big Bubba came in to interfere and the Midnights started using the tennis racket, but Ricky and Robert were able to fight them off and pound Bobby Eaton and Stan Lane off the scaffold. The Rock 'n' Roll Express forever!" ☐

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TATTLER

(Continued from page 8)

Sports Review Wrestling also learned that Ted DiBiase, "The Million-Dollar Man," has offered high-ranking WWF officials an undisclosed amount of cash for a no-disqualification title match against Hogan in the main event. DiBiase already holds two countout victories over Hogan.

—John West

CHARLOTTE, NC: Lex Luger, who shocked the wrestling world when he turned on Arn Anderson, Tully Blanchard, and J.J. Dillon during the first Bunkhouse Stampede of the year in Miami Beach, told reporters here that his first order of business is getting revenge against The Four Horsemen.

"I'm my own man," said Luger. "I never was a team player, but the Horsemen tried to make me do things for their own gain. I'm not in this business to help J.J. Dillon get rich and famous. I'm in it for myself, and that means you're not gonna find me throwing myself over the ropes just so J.J. Dillon can win a Bunkhouse Stampede. I resent what they asked me to do, and I'm not gonna forget it."

Luger, Blanchard, Anderson, and Dillon were the only four men left in the Stampede when the Horsemen got together and Dillon told them to throw themselves over the ropes so he could win the \$25,000 first prize. Anderson and Blanchard went over the ropes, but Luger refused to follow suit and tossed out Dillon. He was promptly attacked by Tully and Arn before Mike Rotundo and several other wrestlers cleared the ring.

"That was a great thing Lex Luger did," said Dusty Rhodes, who six days earlier defeated Luger at Starrcade '87 in Chicago for the U.S. title. "In our match, Luger showed me that he can be a great wrestler someday if he doesn't make the same mistakes, and he just got rid of the biggest mistake of his life."



LEX LUGER

Ric Flair, the fourth member of the Horsemen, reacted indignantly to Luger's sudden turn. "Let me tell you right here and now that what Luger did was wrong," said Flair. "I can't believe he did it, and now he's gonna have to pay for it. J.J. Dillon is the most brilliant strategist in professional wrestling, he is the leader of the Horsemen, and we must protect our leader."

Despite Flair's strong words, rumors have circulated that Flair is considering joining Luger. "Flair is very closely identified with the Horsemen, but there's one thing about Ric—he's an individual and he stands up for what's right for him," said one wrestler who requested anonymity. "There's no way he would've thrown himself over the ropes, either."

—Ken Miranda

MEMPHIS, TN: Jerry Lawler defeated Jeff Jarrett and Manny Fernandez in a round-robin tournament to unify the AWA Southern, Mid-America, and International titles into the Championship Wrestling Alliance championship.

"We still regard the AWA as a World championship, but we feel

that one champion should represent our area, not three," said Mid-Southern spokesman Randy Hales. "We've discovered that fans are often confused about who holds what title. In addition, we'll now be known as the CWA. Hopefully, this will give us increased visibility in the wrestling world."

In the opening match, Lawler, the AWA Southern champ, wrestled Jarrett, the Mid-America champ. After 18 minutes, Jarrett hit Lawler with five straight dropkicks but became overconfident and climbed the middle rope for another dropkick. Lawler moved out of the way and Jarrett crashed to the mat, where he was easily pinned. The two friends shook hands after the match.



JERRY LAWLER

Then Lawler took on Fernandez, the International champ, in a fierce battle that ended when Fernandez was disqualified for bashing Jerry's left arm with a chair. Lawler's arm was badly injured, but he managed to speak with reporters after the match.

"This is a great moment," said Lawler. "Now the fans have one champion and I'm very proud that it's me. I've always loved the fans in Memphis, and this is my greatest opportunity to represent them."

—Randy Swift □

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WE ACCUSE

(Continued from page 10)

ers fought hard, though outnumbered four-to-two, by The Young Stallions and The Killer Bees; Judy Martin, who, like Honky Tonk, is managed by Jimmy Hart, didn't run when faced by both Jumping Bomb Angels.

No, the Honky Tonk Man is surely in a class by himself.

Hogan's behavior was even more shocking because it is not the kind of thing that we expect from the World champion. But are things changing with "The Hulkster"? When Hogan wins, it's easy for him to be the gracious victor. But when it looks like another wrestler is going to enjoy the spotlight and the cheers of the fans, Hogan is not so gracious. When Andre won his Survivor Series match, "The Hulkster" ran out of the dressing room quicker than you could say "egomania." He attacked the Giant from behind, hitting him with, of all things, the championship belt. Hogan forced the weary Giant to flee and grabbed the postmatch spotlight by force.

Forget the disappointment of any fans who might have wanted to give Andre the cheers he deserved. Such a notion is apparently foreign to Hogan.

Perhaps the cheers of the fans—and the incredible record he has amassed over four years as WWF World heavy-weight champion—is going to "The Hulkster's" head. A man who preaches fair play and honesty should not be jealously attacking a match victor from behind in order to bask in cheers that are wholly undeserved. If Hogan continues with this type of behavior, his popularity may begin to fade remarkably quickly.

The majority of the fans cheered Hogan's disgraceful act, although our correspondents noticed a sound they hadn't heard in four years: scattered boos. Someday, these fans may claim to have been the first who woke up to what *really* makes Hogan tick. Indeed, what we saw at the Survivor Series may simply be an indication of what is to come in the career of Hulk Hogan.



The Honky Tonk Man works on the arm of Brutus Beefcake. Later, the Intercontinental champion displayed his cowardice by walking out of the ring when he faced a three-on-one situation.

"The Hulkster's" bright yellow tights may more appropriately be colored green—for envy. We certainly hope that the Thanksgiving Day display was a one-shot affair, however, and that Hogan realizes the error of his actions.

Yet for pure arrogance and egomania, The Honky Tonk Man proved that he was indeed the champion. After turning away from his three opponents, he granted a postmatch interview and reiterated his tired claim to be the greatest Intercontinental champion of all time. He proceeded to disparage Randy Savage, saying, "I never want to see you again!" and challenged Hulk Hogan to a title vs. title match.

Such a bout would be interesting, that is if either man bothers to stay in the ring until the end of the match, or neither man attempts a sneak-attack afterward. A cynical view, to be sure, but one that seems logical in the wake of the Survivor Series.

We accuse Hulk Hogan and The Honky Tonk Man of severely damaging the reputations of their respective championships. We only hope that the damage is not irreparable. ☐

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 6)

Honky Tonk Man and The Hart Foundation. What the WWF kingpin did took a lot of courage, and I can understand that. But I still think you made a mistake. I still think Garvin deserves the honor, regardless of what "The Hulkster" did.

PHILLIP PATTERSON
Muscataine, IA

the turnbuckle. In pain, Hart rolled out of the ring.

When this occurred, Jim Neidhart ran into the ring without making a legal tag and started beating up on Santana. Santana finally tagged out to Martel, who eventually forced Neidhart to submit with a Boston crab. This all would have been fine, *if* a legal tag



He may think he's "cool, cocky, and bad," but The Honky Tonk Man is just a big fool and a terrible wrestler. So writes reader Ryan Williams.

HONKY TONK MORON

An open letter to The Honky Tonk Man:

Who do you think you are? It's bad enough that you're the Intercontinental champion, but you mock the career of the great Elvis Presley by dressing like him, moving like him, and having songs that sound almost like his. You even call Jimmy Hart "Colonel" because Elvis had a manager named Col. Tom Parker.

Face it, Honky Tonk Man, you're a lousy wrestler, and you're no better as a singer. So go back to Memphis, or whatever sleaze pit you came from.

RYAN LEE WILLIAMS
Covington, KY

DIDN'T STRIKE FORCE WIN?

Strike Force are not the WWF tag team champions, and I can prove it! Somewhere toward the end of their title match, Brett Hart and Tito Santana, the two legal men, were in the ring. After taking a beating, Santana finally recovered and threw Hart into

between the Harts had been made. This is why Strike Force are not the champions.

Jimmy Hart must make WWF President Jack Tunney review the tapes. If the referee had done his job, none of this would have happened and the belts would still belong to The Hart Foundation. Don't look for a long title reign from Martel and Santana, though—they have every rulebreaking tag team breathing down their necks.

DAVID HAYES
South Bend, IN

THE "REAL" EXPRESS

This letter is in response to a letter written by Darlene Davis in the December 1987 issue ("Some Midnight Excess"). It is obvious that you have not been a wrestling fan for long, because if you were you would know that Dennis Condrey and Randy Rose, along with Norvell Austin, were the *original*, and still are the *real*, Midnight Express. Bobby Eaton came later.

As for derailing the Express, if the

match ever happened it would be Con-drey and Rose who would derail the team of Eaton and Stan Lane! Long live the original Express—Randy and Dennis!

EDWARD DEEM
Schofield Banks, HI

NEW MATCHES

I am the ultimate wrestling fan. I watch the NWA, AWA, WWF, and WCCW faithfully. Each promotion has their own way of promoting wrestling extravaganzas, and all are good. I like the way they go about setting up certain matches, like scaffold matches, chain matches, lights-out matches, bunkhouse brawls, and battle royals. I have come up with a few ideas of my own that I would like to see come about.

The first is a match I like to call the "fool in the pool." It takes place in a ring built above a swimming pool, with the loser ending up all wet.

The next is a "you've gotta give it

(Continued on page 56)

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(Continued from page 55)



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SHAUN SIMPSON

(Continued from page 31)

eyes of the fans, either—particularly the women.

Unfortunately, revenge was in the eyes of ex-champions Embry and Lancaster. Steve's vision had been giving him problems throughout the summer, and word eventually reached Embry and Lancaster, who concentrated on punishing Steve's eyes in their first few title rematches.

The strategy paid off when, early in October, Steve suffered a detached retina. On the advice of his doctors, Steve took a four-month sabbatical from the ring. "What those two scum did to my brother was absolutely and hideously disgraceful," Shaun says. "Wrestling is violent, and you have to expect to get a beating in this sport. But to attempt to injure someone to the point where his livelihood—his very sight!—is threatened ... well, that's totally another story."

Shaun then faced his biggest test. The World Class championship committee elected not to strip the Simpsons of the belts, ruling instead that Shaun could choose alternate partners to defend the straps. After a few successful defenses, Shaun and Skip Young dropped the belts to Lancaster and Brian Adias on October 12.

"I felt kind of let down," Shaun says. "I'm not putting Young down at all—he put up a great match—but I feel that Steve and I could have defended the belts against all comers. The teamwork with Skip was awkward; I didn't feel that way with Steve."

Rather than give in to despair, Shaun rebounded quickly and set his sights on Embry's World Class junior heavyweight title. Embry and Simpson brawled through late-October into mid-November, but Embry continued to hold the title. Then Shaun agreed to put up his hair against Embry's title at a Thanksgiving match at Reunion Arena in Dallas.

Ten minutes into the match,



Shaun uncorked a hard right cross that stunned Embry, but he was unable to cover him for the pin fast enough. Shaun then came off the top rope, but Embry put his knees up and caught the youngster in the midsection.

Then it was Embry's turn to try a splash off the top ropes, but Shaun moved out of the way and Embry landed hard on the mat. Shaun mounted the ropes, flew onto Eric's shoulders with a high bodypress, and rolled him up for the pin. World Class had a new junior heavyweight champion.

"That was the highest point of my career yet!" Shaun says. "The fact that it came against Embry only made it all the more important and satisfying. I'll never forget what Embry and Lancaster did to my brother."

Asked how his brother was doing, Shaun noted that "Steve's really looking forward to getting back in the ring, although it's hard because his type of injury is one that requires a lot of rest and healing. He's still working out daily, just avoiding any contact sports that might aggravate the injury."

In the meantime, Shaun is looking forward to a long and healthy World Class junior heavyweight title reign.



Simpson chokes Embry on the ring apron (left), but the rulebreaking champion dips into his trunks for a foreign object. Simpson held off Embry (above) and later celebrated his first singles title (below).



"I know Embry wants the title back," Shaun said, "and I think that re-matches with him are number one on my list. But I also want to establish myself further in World Class, and continuing to defend my title honorably and against all comers is, in my opinion, the way to do it."

There's an old wrestling adage: "It never gets easier in this sport, it only gets tougher with each day."

Though a professional for only about a year, Shaun is already showing—with each day—that he's got what it takes to handle the pressure and make it in the sport. He's one future star to keep a close eye on. ☐

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AWA TITLE TURMOIL

(Continued from page 33)



Hennig slams Gagne to the Minneapolis Arena floor during their World title match. The former tag team partners have engaged in one of the fiercest feuds in recent AWA history—and there's no end in sight.

have seized the opportunity to resume their 30-year feud, and their sons have paid a high price.

"It's a sad situation," said AWA President Stanley Blackburn, who ordered the World title held up on Thanksgiving Day after the fathers interfered in yet another title match. "They remind me of two old fathers at a Little League game, screaming their heads off and making total fools of themselves, living vicariously through their sons' feats. The saddest thing of all is that Larry and Verne had great careers on their own. It's nice to have pride in your sons, but now it's time to step aside for the new generation."

The Gagne-Hennig family feud

exploded during the AWA's Thanksgiving show at the Minneapolis Auditorium. Before the match started, Larry and Verne squared off in the ring and had to be ordered out of the ring by referee Scott LeDoux. Larry and Verne both had ringside seats, however, putting them too close for comfort.

"That was unfortunate," said LeDoux. "I figured I could send them back to the dressing room or maybe out of the arena altogether, but then they flashed those tickets and I thought to myself, 'There's no way they'll stay out of this one.' I just don't understand why they can't let their sons wrestle. Why do they insist on getting involved? The fans don't want to see Larry Hennig and Verne Gagne. They want to see the World champion and his number-one challenger. Curt and Greg have had some great matches."

Indeed, they wrestled another brilliant scientific match on Thanksgiving, and it looked like Greg would win the belt when he applied a sleeperhold. Hennig was on the verge of passing out when his father ran out of his seat and onto the ring apron. Greg then made the critical mistake of releasing Curt so he could argue with Larry, giving the younger Hennig time to recover. But before he could attack Greg, Verne ran into the ring and hit him with a roll of dimes. Curt fell unconscious as Verne ran away and Greg then bodypressed a groggy Hennig for the pin. Larry then attacked LeDoux, adding to the disgrace.

"I was standing there watching all this, and I couldn't believe what was going on!" said Blackburn. "How could Greg and Verne possibly have thought that I was going to let that pin stand? This is clearly a case where the AWA Board must

(Continued on page 62)

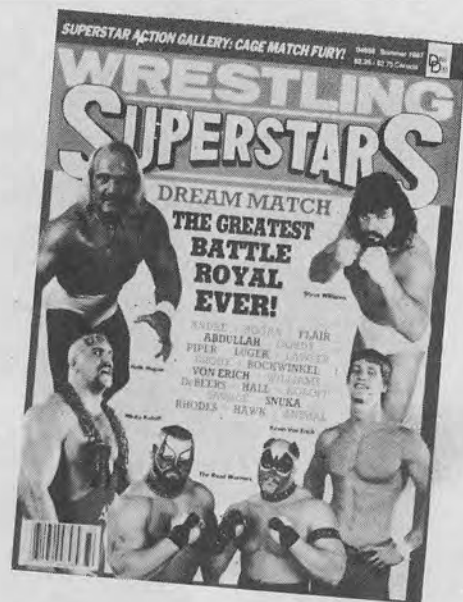
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AWA TITLE TURMOIL

(Continued from page 60)

look at the tapes and make a decision, but I can't see how the pin would be allowed. The title has been held up, and there will most definitely be a rematch. As for Larry Hennig, his attack on a certified AWA referee will be thoroughly investigated."

Perhaps most unfortunately, the reputations of Curt Hennig and Greg Gagne has been tainted by the people who love them most. Hennig occasionally stretches the rules, and his refusal to grant several leading contenders title shots at the start of his reign is a permanent



Hennig has a penchant for breaking the rules, but here he displays his outstanding scientific abilities by putting Gagne in a Boston crab. Curt is one of the finest scientific grapplers in the world.

blemish on his record. But he is one of the finest all-around wrestlers in the sport. Gagne is a fine all-around athlete and perfectly capable of winning the belt from Hennig without his father's help.

But as it stands now, if Gagne ever wins the belt from Hennig, people will say that he wouldn't have done it without his father. If Hennig retains the title, his reign will be further tainted by his father's outside interference.

This may be a tough thing to do, but it's the only thing they can do:

Greg Gagne and Curt Hennig must tell their fathers to grow up. □

STARRCADE

(Continued from page 40)

ducked a cross-bodyblock and Windham sailed over the ropes, onto the table at ringside, and into the guard railing. Windham then fell prey to the pin. *Time: 7:02.*

The Midnight Express (with Jim Cornette and Big Bubba Rogers) vs. The Rock 'n' Roll Express. These hated rivals battled on a 20-foot high scaffold. Throughout the match the teams exchanged the advantage—and possession of Jim Cornette's tennis racket. When Stan Lane climbed off the scaffold to resist a Rick Morton onslaught, Morton followed and the two hung precariously from its underside. Lane swung back and forth and finally was knocked to the mat. Morton then stole the racket from Bobby Eaton and, with Robert Gibson, double-teamed Eaton, who hung from the bottom of the scaffold and was sent to the canvas by Gibson's scissors-kick and a racket smash from Morton. *Time: 9:35.*

Nikita Koloff vs. Terry Taylor (with Eddie Gilbert). NWA TV champ Koloff took on UWF TV champ Taylor in a rare title unification. Nikita suffered a tremendous beating in the early going. With about 17 minutes gone, Gilbert hit Nikita in the back of the knee with a chair. Taylor applied an excruciating figure-four, then joined hands with Gilbert for added leverage. Koloff lifted his shoulders just in time on three consecutive two-counts before referee Earl Hebner broke the illegal hold. Taylor argued with Hebner, giving Nikita time to recover. Nikita rolled to the side of the ring, but was choked by the waiting Gilbert. As the crowd roared, Nikita rose to his feet and grabbed Gilbert's neck. Taylor took a run at Nikita but banged heads with Gilbert when Koloff moved out of the

(Continued on page 64)

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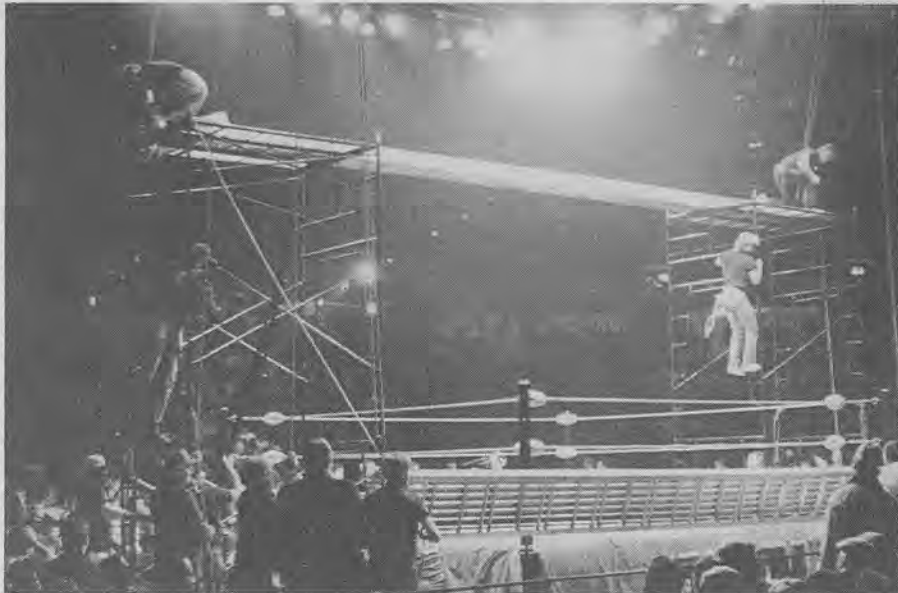
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STARRCADE (Continued from page 63)



way. A dazed Taylor was floored by Nikita's sickle and covered for the pin. *Time: 18:55.*

The Road Warriors (with Paul Ellering) vs. Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson (with J.J. Dillon). An action-packed match with a bizarre end. While Hawk worked over Anderson, Blanchard slugged referee Tommy Young, sending him to the ring floor. Referee Earl Hebner came into the ring just as Animal sent Blanchard over the top rope. Hawk executed a clothesline from off the top rope as Animal held Arn, sending the Horseman to the mat. Animal covered Anderson for the pin. The Warriors had started their celebration when Young returned to the ring and disqualified them for throwing Blanchard over the top rope. *Time: 14:13.*

Dusty Rhodes vs. Lex Luger (with Dillon). It was Luger's U.S. title vs. a 90-day forced vacation from wrestling for Dusty in this steel cage showdown. Luger had Rhodes at a disadvantage, but Dusty mounted a comeback. When Luger missed a clothesline and Rhodes clamped on the Weaverlock, Dillon grabbed a chair from ringside and hit Johnny Weaver, the holder of the key to the cage, over the head. Dillon

Twenty feet above the ring, workers prepare the scaffold for a thrilling battle between The Rock 'n' Roll Express and The Midnight Express. From below, it's easy to see the dangers involved in such a match.

stole the key and tried to get into the cage. Referee Earl Hebner tried to ward off Dillon, but Luger knocked him down. Luger and Rhodes fell to the mat at opposite corners of the ring and Dillon threw the chair over the cage. As Luger bent down to pick up the chair, Dusty got up, grabbed Luger in a headlock, and DDT'd him on the chair, then covered him for the pin. *Time: 16:23.*

Ric Flair (with Dillon) vs. Ronnie Garvin. Flair resisted a determined Garvin onslaught for more than 16 minutes and rallied to win his fifth NWA World title in this memorable steel cage match. After Garvin covered Flair for four seconds—but only got a two-count from dazed referee Tommy Young—he brought Flair to his feet and whipped him across the ring. Flair reversed the move and threw Garvin into the ropes. Garvin came back and tried a high cross-bodyblock, but Flair caught him, backed him face-first into the cage, and rolled him up for the three-count and the title. *Time: 16:39.*

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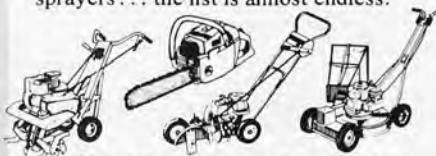
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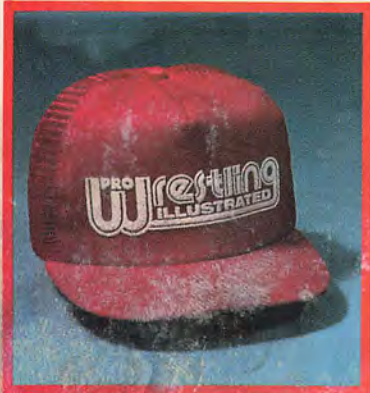
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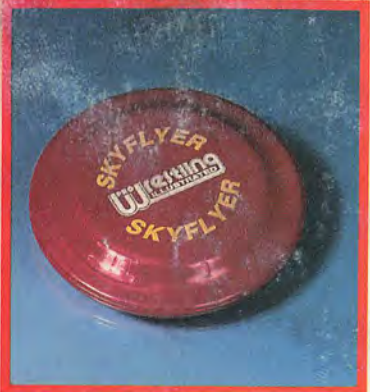
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